

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

VALPARAISO, INDIANA

August 22, 2025

The Board of Public Works and Safety of Valparaiso, Indiana met August 22, 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 August 8, 2025 meeting. Seconded by Bill Oeding 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 Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Silhavy Road Sidewalk Easements

The Engineering Department recommends acceptance of the following sidewalk easements located at 3000 Silhavy, 3004 Silhavy, 3006 Silhavy, 3008 Silhavy and also recommends the acceptance of Temporary Right of Entry Agreement at 3008 Silhavy. This is part of the Silhavy sidewalk improvement. The pathway will go from Audubon to the pathway.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved that sidewalk easements and Temporary Right of Entry be approved. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

2025 Sidewalk Package 1 – Change Order

The Engineering Department is requesting approval of a Change Order to the 2025 Annual Sidewalk Program – Package 1 in the amount of \$98,669.05.

The Engineering Department received unit pricing below the average we have typically seen. We decided to take advantage of those cost savings by adding additional areas to Sidewalk Package 1. This allowed us to complete even more sidewalk repairs at a cost savings as compared to the typical unit pricing we receive.

The original contract amount was for \$427,209. The contract amount with the change order is \$525,878.05. The original engineer's estimate was \$600,000.

Sidewalk Package 1 is being paid for with Redevelopment Funds. The RDC approved \$800,000 for sidewalk improvements. This leaves \$274,121.95 remaining for Packages 2 and 3 in addition to LIT sidewalk funds.

The Engineering Department requests and recommends approval of the Change Order in the amount of \$98,669.05.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved that 2025 Sidewalk Package- Change Order be approved as presented. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

CN Railroad –Franklin Street Closure Request

CN Railroad is requesting to close Franklin Street between Billings Street and Bush Street for railroad crossing improvements. The closure is scheduled to be from August 29th through September 6th. Engineering has reviewed the closure and recommends approval.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved that CN Railroad-Franklin Street closure be approved. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Request for Street Closure – Sturdy Rd

Paving contractor Rieth Riley is requesting a full road closure on Sturdy Road between US 30 and Lincolnway Roundabout for milling and paving work on the following dates, night-time hours only.

- August 20th to August 21st and
- September 8th to September 9th

This is a planned closure and part of the CCMG 25 project. The Engineering Department recommends approval of this street closure request.

MOTION: Bill Oeding moved that Rieth Riley request for a full road closure on Sturdy Road between US 30 and Lincolnway Roundabout be approved as presented. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Request for Street Closure – SR 130

Paving contractor Rieth Riley is requesting a full road closure on SR 130 between the Canadian National Railroad to Froberg Rd for milling and paving work from September 8th to September 9th due to changes of schedule. This is a planned closure part of the CCMG 25 project. The Engineering Department recommends approval of this street closure request.

Bill Oeding – What is considered night time closure?

Daniela Martins – Night closure is 9:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved that Reith Riley’s request to close SR 130 between Canadian National railroad and Froberg Road from September 8th to September 9th night-time hours only be approved. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Request Pavement Marking Approval Bullseye Lake Road at Calumet Ave - West Approach

The Engineering Department recommends approval of the pavement marking layout for the West Approach to the intersection of Bullseye Lake Rd at Calumet. Presently, there are no markings for the east bound lanes which can cause confusion for drivers as they travel the area.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved that the pavement marking at Bullseye Lake Road at Calumet Avenue be approved as presented. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Calkins Hill Bond Draw #11

George Douglas advised the Calkins Hill Project is near completion. They are requesting the final draw. George has reviewed the Draw Request and recommends approval.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved that draw #11 request on the Calkins Hill Bond be approved as presented. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Maintenance Agreement - Overhead Door Company of Northwest Indiana, Inc.

Overhead Door Company of Northwest Indiana, Inc. will perform general maintenance services, provide maintenance checklists, and will provide quotes for any recommended repairs bi-annually in the year of 2026. One maintenance service will be provided in May 2026 per station and one other maintenance service will be provided in November 2026 per station. This will be paid from the Building Fund.

The annual rate for these maintenance calls will be as follows:

- Valparaiso Fire Department Station 1 is \$790 (\$395/visit)
- Valparaiso Fire Department Station 2 is \$960 (\$480/visit)
- Valparaiso Fire Department Station 3 is \$620 (\$310/visit)

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved that the 2026 Maintenance Agreement with Overhead Door Company be approved as presented. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Valpo REC Design Build Proposals

Kevin Nuppnau – Kevin was joined by Tristan Leonhard, Assistant Park Director and Jarrod Yandle, Sports Facilities representative. The Qualitative Bids only were opened. The Financials will be opened at a later date. They anticipate making the final recommendation to the Board at the Friday September 26 meeting. The financials will be kept in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office

until that meeting. This is a Design Build project. A Design Build project is a construction method where one entity, the design builder works under a single contract with the project owner to provide both the design and construction services. This is different from the traditional approach where the owner hires a separate architect to create the design and then a separate builder to complete the construction. Once the qualification proposals are opened, a review committee will be assembled to review the submissions and score them based on each team's ability to execute the project. Following their work they will publicly open the pricing portion of the proposals at a separate meeting. The scores and pricing will be used to determine which firm provides the best overall value.

Mayor Costas – This is a unique opportunity for the City and a duty of the City to take what is old and make it new again. This is the last large industrial site to be redeveloped. Because the City was able to acquire this facility of 17 acres and 220,000 sq ft at such a low price, the cost of the facility is less than half or maybe a third of what it would be to build it from the ground up. What will be in the building is yet to be determined. There will be an opportunity for citizens to express their opinions.

Bill Oeding – A Design Build process is regulated and defined by the State. It is very controlled.

Bids received were from:

- Arco National Construction
- Harbour Construction, Farmsworth
- Walsh Construction, Wrightman
- Bear Construction, Studio CC
- Skillman, Ratio
- F.A. Wilhelm, MSKTD
- Lauth Group, Krip Architects
- Mortenson Construction, and others
- CORE Construction, Browning Day, American Structure Point and IMEG
- Hagerman/Schmidt
- Tonn & Blank
- Berglund, Shive Hattery and Abonmarche

Kevin Nuppnau asked to take the bids under advisement and make a recommendation at the next meeting.

Franklin Street Road Closure for Tower Park Construction Delivery

Kevin Nuppnau – He is requesting closure of Franklin Street from Billings to Evans on September 1st. This is to allow access for delivery of the precast restroom building.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved that the Franklin Street Road closure be approved as presented. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

General Order Policy Change

Chief McIntyre presented a Policy Change regarding Real Time Crime Center. It is the purpose of this policy to provide officers, department members, and the community with guidelines for the use of the Valparaiso Police Department's Real Time Crime Center (RTCC). The technology within the RTCC will be utilized to enhance public safety and security in public areas within the City of Valparaiso.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved that the General Order Policy Change regarding Real Time Crime Center be approved as presented. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Memorandum of Understanding Between Valparaiso Police Department and Valparaiso Community School District for Situational Access to District Security Cameras

Chief McIntyre presented an MOU with VCS laying out procedure for security cameras that have been installed in the schools. VCS has installed video surveillance cameras to provide a safe educational environment for students and District employees. VCS and VPD share responsibility for school safety and must work together with complementary policies and procedures to ensure a safe learning environment for students and staff members. VCS and the VPD recognize the need for a shared understanding as to the use of Security Cameras in the schools in a way that enhances security and aids law enforcement while respecting the privacy expectations of members of the school community.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved that the MOU between VPD and VCS regarding security cameras be approved as presented. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Property Maintenance Code/Rental Housing Code Violation Matters

Vicki Thrasher advised 809.5 Oak has been brought into compliance and she requested the case against this property be dismissed. The remaining cases, she requested be continued to the October 24, 2025 meeting.

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| a. 453 West Street | h. 809.5 Oak |
| b. 604 Monroe | i. 813 George |
| c. 554 Campbell | j. 817 George |
| d. 352 Locust | k. 956 West Street |
| e. 1115 Institute | l. 901 Bullseye Lake |
| f. 1308 Institute | m. 825 Lincolnway |
| g. 407 Morgan | n. 702 Garfield |

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved that the case against 809.5 Oak Street be dismissed. The remaining cases against properties as presented by Vicki Thrasher, be continued to the

October 24, 2025 meeting. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Street Closures

- Valpo Creative Council, August 23, 2025
- Valpo Events Brew Fest – September 26, 2025

These have been reviewed and approved by all impacted departments.

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

Holiday Lights Proposal

Dan McGuire- He presented three proposals for Christmas decorations around the City. Quotes were received from:

Blink Lighting Upstate, LLC -	\$140,000.00
Lakeshore Landscaping -	\$174,140.00
ServiScape -	\$230,414.56

It is the Park's recommendation to go with Lakeshore Landscaping. The City's portion of the amount is \$97,647.00. The total price is \$174,140.00 which includes Central Park.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve the Contract with Lakeshore Landscaping for Christmas decorations. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Expand Daybreak Residential to 2nd Floor

Lita Peters, Executive Director and John Zapata, Director introduced themselves.

Bill Oeding – The City has an Agreement with Daybreak that the first floor which is two rooms with six beds be used solely for a period of three years. Because of winter coming and demand and need for additional beds, they are requesting to open the second floor.

John Zapata – Valparaiso had 42 subzero nights last winter. Without the extra beds anyone turned away faces life threatening exposure. With a 12 bed capacity it limits the available space. Their program has been successful. The upstairs area is fully renovated and has passed fire and ADA inspections. They can safely accommodate 12 additional beds immediately for males.

Mayor Costas – It is really great to get this shelter done and paid for completely. The structures are important but so are the people that run them. The City is grateful for this organization. You are good at what you do and you have a program that works.

Katrina Spence – This is a wonderful thing they have been doing. She appreciates the amount of work they do for the community.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve the request to expand Daybreak residential to the second floor. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Public Assembly Request

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 Courthouse Square on September 1, 2025 from noon to 4:00 pm. 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. She was reminded no whistles and no megaphones.

Deb McCleod will meet with the Mayor and Chief McIntyre to discuss issues they are having with other protestors being present during their permitted time.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve the request for Public Assembly on September 1, 2025. 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)

There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned.