

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

VALPARAISO, INDIANA

September 12, 2025

The Board of Public Works and Safety of Valparaiso, Indiana met September 12, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. in City Hall. Present were Mayor Costas and Katrina Spence. Bill Oeding was absent. Mayor Costas called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2025 meeting. Seconded by Katrina Spence 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 Katrina Spence and so approved with a 2-0 vote.

Amendment and Restated Joint Park Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with Center Township Trustee

Kevin Nuppnau presented the Third Amendment to the Joint Park Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the Center Township Trustee. This amendment increases the annual fee from \$85,000 to \$150,000. With that increase Center Township Residents will pay the same reduced fee as Valparaiso residents. The Agreement was also amended to set aside \$100,000 for the ACE Program. The two Trustee appointments now qualify to be officers on the Park Board.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved that the Third Amendment to the Joint Park Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the Center Township Trustee be approved. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 2-0 vote.

Forest Park Pump House

The Forest Park Pump House is part of the irrigation project but a separate bid. This funding is part of the \$2 Million short term bond that is paying for the irrigation system as well as the pump house. It went out to bid and they received one bid from George E. Lay which is the same company that is doing the irrigation system. Their bid was \$330,677.02. That is within the range estimate for this project so they are recommending accepting that bid. The project will start in March of 2026 and run through May of 2026.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved that the bid and contract from George E. Lay be approved. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 2-0 vote.

Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Agreement

The City applied for a Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant with FHWA in April of 2024. They were awarded \$200,000 Federal funding for a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan with a \$50,000 local match for a project total of \$250,000. The City was notified of the award in October of

2024. Engineering started work on the Agreement in November of 2024. With the change in the Federal government's administration the grant awards were put on hold till the new administration reviewed. The original agreement form used was revised to remove the sections on climate change and equity/diversity. After months of waiting we finally have an approved agreement for signatures. The next catch is that the Federal fiscal year ends on September 20th so the Agreement needs to be back at FHWA by September 15th to process for this fiscal year or we have to wait till November. Staff recommends approval of the Grant Agreement.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved that the Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Agreement with the FHWA be approved. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 2-0 vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2 – 2025
A RESOLUTION OF THE VALPARAISO BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF A FIRE ENGINE FROM THE CITY OF
VALPARAISO FIRE DEPARTMENT TO THE NORTH JUDSON-WAYNE TOWNSHIP FIRE
DEPARTMENT

Chief Dutz addressed the Board. The Department owns a 2001 KME Fire Engine. The North Judson-Wayne Township Fire Department has submitted a letter of intent to acquire the Engine. NJFD is a volunteer department with a limited budget. VFD desires to donate an out of-service Engine to NJFD. VFD is authorized by Indiana Code §36-1-11-8 to transfer equipment to NJFD "upon terms and conditions agreed upon by the entities as evidenced by adoption of a substantially identical resolution by each entity". Chief Dutz requested approval and signatures on Resolution No. 2, 2025.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved that Resolution No. 2, 2025 authorizing the transfer for a fire engine be approved. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 2-0 vote.

Silhavy Road Sidewalk – Bid Opening

The Engineering Department requested bids for the Silhavy Road Sidewalk Improvement Project on August 22nd, with bid opening scheduled for the September 12th Board of Works meeting. The project consists of constructing a sidewalk connection from approximately 500 feet north of Vale Park Rd to Audubon Estates. The engineers' cost estimate for the project is \$368,825.00.

Bids received were:

Milestone	\$374,977.40
Rieth-Riley	\$430,535.00
New Tech	\$363,507.00
Gariup	\$396,400.00

Daniella Martins requested the bids be taken under advisement and an award made at the next meeting.

US 30 and Silhavy Road Improvements Project

The Engineering Department is requesting plan approval for improvements to US 30 and Silhavy Road. The project will realign Silhavy Road configuration at US 30 in order to alleviate congestion in the area.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved that the plan for the US 30 and Silhavy Road Improvements Project be approved. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 2-0 vote.

Change Order #8 Approval - US 30 Landscaping Improvements

Engineering Department staff are recommending change order #8 approval for the US 30 Landscaping Project. The change order added delineator posts to the median at Linwood Ave. They recommend change order #8 approval in the amount of \$6,141.50 for this additional work.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved that the US 30 Landscaping Improvements Change Order #8 be approved. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 2-0 vote.

Final Change Order Approval - Goodrich Road Extension

The Goodrich Road Extension project has finished construction. Engineering Department staff are recommending approval for Change Order #1 reflecting additional subgrade stabilization work and a final balance of quantities. This change order reflects an increase of \$38,330.72 for a total project amount of \$564,150.72.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved that the Final Change Order for Goodrich Road Extension be approved. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 2-0 vote.

Deed of Dedication of Public Road Right-Of-Way - 2602 Campbell St.

The Engineering Department recommends acceptance of the dedication of public right of way in the amount of 40 feet at 2602 Campbell St.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved that the Deed of Dedication of Public Road Right-of-Way be approved. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 2-0 vote.

Napoleon Street Closure

Egolf Coates Excavating is requesting to close Napoleon Street between Chicago Street and Jefferson Street for the installation of a sanitary sewer lateral connection. The closure is

scheduled to be for Monday, September 15th and to last a day or less. Engineering has reviewed the closure and recommends approval.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved that the Napoleon Street Closure be approved. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 2-0 vote.

Streets and Alley Closure Request – NIPSCO

NIPSCO is making a request to close an alley and two street locations for repairs and replacements of gas main infrastructure. NIPSCO is asking for the following closures:

- Closure of the alley between Lincolnway and Jefferson, west of Napoleon Street to remove a leaking valve and replace a section of gas main. This closure is expected to be for 2 to 3 weeks beginning on September 24th.
- Restriction of lanes at the intersection of Glendale and Valparaiso Street to install an emergency shutdown valve. This will close the westbound lane of Glendale and the eastbound left turn lane. This closure will be for one day.
- Restriction of lanes at the intersection of Eastport Center Drive and Redbow Drive. The southbound lane of Eastport Center Drive will be closed with traffic detoured under flagging to the northbound lane. This closure will be for one day.
- Closure of Marks Road from Lincolnway to approximately 475' north for the replacement of gas main due to foreign liquids in the main. This closure is expected to be for 2 to 3 weeks beginning on September 22nd.

Engineering has reviewed these closures and recommends approval.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved that the street and alley closures requested by NIPSCO be approved. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 2-0 vote.

Street Closures

- VHS Homecoming Parade, October 3, 2025 (Campbell Street Northbound Lane Only)
- Valpo Library Fall Festival, October 10, 2025

These have been reviewed and approved by all impacted departments.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve the requests for street closure. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 2-0 vote.

Public Assembly Request

The request of Education About American Values has asked to be removed from the Agenda.

Public Assembly Request

This request is made by Paul Schreiner. He is requesting to organize on the north east corner of the Courthouse Square on Saturdays from September 13, 2025 through March 14, 2026 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. He is expecting 35 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. He was reminded no whistles and no megaphones.

Paul Schreiner made his request that they have been on the North east corner for several years with no issues. He wishes to remain on that corner.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve the request for Public Assembly on Saturdays from September 13, 2025 through March 14, 2026 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. On the north east corner of the Courthouse Square. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 2-0 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 18, 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 McLeod explained they are happy to be on the south side of the Courthouse. They asked to be on that side and it works well for them.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve the request for Public Assembly on September 18, 2025. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 2-0 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)

George Terrell – 708 Lafayette. He discussed the safety of protestors and traffic at demonstrations downtown. The City has to follow the Constitution.

James Ferguson – 303 Indiana. He discussed separating the groups at demonstrations downtown.

There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned.