

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY
VALPARAISO, INDIANA
October 27, 2023**

The Board of Public Works & Safety of Valparaiso, Indiana met October 27, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in City Hall. Present were Steve Poulos and Mayor Murphy. Holly Howe was absent. Mayor Murphy called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion: Steve Poulos moved that the minutes of the October 13, 2023 meeting be approved. Seconded by Mayor Murphy and so approved with a 2-0 vote.

Motion: Steve Poulos moved that the claims be approved for payment subject to appropriation balances. Seconded by Mayor Murphy and so approved with a 2-0 vote.

Vale Park Road West, Traffic Calming, Change Order #1

Max Rehlander addressed the Board. Milestone Contractors has completed the Vale Park Rd West Traffic calming project at the intersection of Vale Park Rd and Winter Park Drive. This intersection initially proposed a speed table to calm traffic. The Engineering Department found the measure to be ineffective. Engineering Department staff worked with Milestone to remove and replace additional curbs and provide more asphalt along the ramps into the intersection. Milestone has submitted this change order in the amount of \$21,970 for the added work. Upon approval of this change order, this project will be closed out. The Engineering Department recommends approval of Change Order #1 to the Vale Park Rd West Traffic Calming project in the amount of \$21,970.00.

Motion: Steve Poulos moved to approve Change Order #1 to the Vale Park Road West Traffic Calming Project in the amount of \$21,970.00. Seconded by Mayor Murphy and so approved with a 2-0 vote.

Professional Services Contract – Traffic Control Services

Max Rehlander addressed the Board. The Engineering Department reached out to Traffic Control Services on two occasions to assist with Traffic Control for Railroad closures. The first case occurred between 5/31 and 6/5 which involved the closure of Roosevelt Road for improvements to that RR crossing. The second case occurred between 7/22 and 7/25 which was for an emergency closure due to the train derailment that weekend. The Engineering Department recommends approval of the first contract in the amount of \$3,210 and approval of the second contract in the amount of \$2,206.96.

Motion: Steve Poulos moved to approve the two contracts with Traffic Control Services in the amounts of \$3,210 and \$2,206.96. Seconded by Mayor Murphy and so approved with a 2-0 vote.

Street Closure, Morgan, Jefferson, Lincolnway

Max Rehlander addressed the Board. As part of the Linc Apartments development, NIPSCo and GE Marshall are requesting various closures of streets within the vicinity of the project area. Morgan Blvd closure is requested to extend to be closed the week of 10/30. Jefferson Street is anticipated to be closed during the day on November 8th, 9th, 15 and 16th. Lincolnway is anticipated to be closed during nighttime hours only (10pm to 6am) on November 6th, 7th, 13th, and 14th. The NIPSCo construction team will provide signage and barricades and will notify local residents and business. The Engineering Department has reviewed the respective closures and recommends them for approval.

Motion: Steve Poulos moved to approve the street closures as presented. Seconded by Mayor Murphy and so approved with a 2-0 vote.

Fire Department – Operations Manual Notification of Administration

Jon Daly addressed the Board. This new Operations Manual is to help give directions on when the fire chief and/or the fire administration should be notified pertaining to major incidents.

Motion: Steve Poulos moved to approve the Operations Manual Notification of Administration as presented. Seconded by Mayor Murphy and so approved with a 2-0 vote.

Fire Department – Change in Position Description

Jon Daly addressed the Board. The Department is updating the current job description so that it fits more in line with how the Department operates. The current policy is outdated.

Motion: Steve Poulos moved to approve the Position Description as presented. Seconded by Mayor Murphy and so approved with a 2-0 vote.

Request for Written Decision – Mary Abraytis

Attorney Patrick Lyp Addressed the Board. He presented a Written Decision regarding the Administrative Appeal filed by Mary Abraytis. The Board of Works finds that the placement of the two signs along Yellowstone Road indicating that the weight limit for vehicles on the road is 20 tons, is appropriate.

Steve Poulos – This City has spent many hours and resources investigating this matter. The solutions were presented one on one and publicly to the stakeholders and City Council and agreed to by the Stakeholders. The City has meet its obligations. Attorney Lyp and Mayor Murphy agreed.

Motion: Steve Poulos moved to approve the Written Decision as presented. Seconded by Mayor Murphy and so approved with a 2-0 vote.

Unsafe Building Code Violation Matters

804 Union Street

Attorney Estrada recommended continuing this matter for eight weeks. Some repairs have been made. The property owner's attorney has provided an appraisal, engineering report and pictures.

Motion: Steve Poulos moved to continue the 804 Union Street Unsafe Building Code Violation to the December 22, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Mayor Murphy and so approved with a 2-0 vote.

Property Maintenance Code Violation Matters

Attorney Estrada addressed the Board. All but one property owner showed up for today's meetings. Due to the winter months coming up, he will not hold meetings again until spring when property owners should have issues fixed or will be starting on repairs.

Attorney Estrada recommended continuing the matters listed below to a meeting to be determined in March. Steady improvements have been made to each property.

808 Napoleon

303 Indiana

305 Brown

1106 Institute

103 Morgan Boulevard

1308 Institute Street

407 Morgan

11.5 Lincolnway

505 Academy

Motion: Steve Poulos moved to continue the above matters to a meeting to be determined in March. Seconded by Mayor Murphy and so approved with a 2-0 vote.

Attorney Estrada recommended dismissing the following two matters:

900 Washington Street and 208 Napoleon Street

Motion: Steve Poulos moved to dismiss the above two matters. Seconded by Mayor Murphy and so approved with a 2-0 vote.

Unsafe Building Code Violation Matters

2010 Yorktowne

Attorney Estrada recommended continuing this matter until the November meeting. Permits have been pulled.

Motion: Steve Poulos moved to continue the 2010 Yorktowne Unsafe Building Code Violation to the November, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Mayor Murphy and so approved with a 2-0 vote.

253 W Lincolnway

Attorney Estrada recommended continuing this matter until the November meeting. C Lee has been hired for the demolition. They anticipate completing this in November.

Motion: Steve Poulos moved to continue the 253 West Lincolnway Unsafe Building Code Violation to the November, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Mayor Murphy and so approved with a 2-0 vote.

2402 N Calumet

Attorney Estrada recommended continuing this matter until the November meeting. They anticipate having the old KFC sign down by then.

Motion: Steve Poulos moved to continue the 2402 N Calumet Unsafe Building Code Violation to the November, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Mayor Murphy and so approved with a 2-0 vote.

306 Indiana Avenue

Attorney Estrada advised that the property owner has requested a continuance. He is still working on an inspection and quote for demolition. Attorney Estrada recommends continuing with the Evidentiary Hearing.

Evidentiary Hearing – 306 Indiana Avenue

Attorney Estrada called up Building and Code Enforcement Director, Vicki Thrasher. She testified that the property at 306 had a significant fire. She has inspected it from the outside. The building is severely burnt out damaged apartment building. She has taken pictures of the building which were presented. She has determined it uninhabitable because there is no roof and most of the building is burnt. It is a shell of a building and is unsafe. It is her recommendation that the building be demolished.

No one was present on behalf of the property owner. Attorney Estrada recommended approval of an Order of Demolition.

Motion: Steve Poulos moved to approve the Order of Demolition for the property at 306 Indiana Avenue. Seconded by Mayor Murphy and so approved with a 2-0 vote.

Unsafe Building Code Violation Matters – Update 1425 Glendale

Attorney Estrada advised there was a hearing on December 14, 2023. Parties have until the 30th to appeal. The Trustee is in the process of working on a sale.

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned.