

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

The Board of Public Works & Safety of Valparaiso, Indiana met January 27, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in City Hall. Present were Mayor Murphy, Steve Poulos and Holly Howe. Mayor Murphy called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Motion:** Holly Howe moved that the minutes of the January 13, 2023 meeting be approved. Seconded by Steve Poulos and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

**Motion:** Holly Howe moved that the claims be approved for payment subject to appropriation balances. Seconded by Steve Poulos and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

**Yellowstone Road Weight Limit Restrictions**

Mike Jabo requested approval to post a 20-ton weight limit sign on Yellowstone Road with the exceptions of vehicles such as school busses, emergency response vehicles, and public works/utility maintenance vehicles. This is enforced by the Police Department.

**MOTION:** Steve Poulos moved to approve the 20-ton Road Weight Limit Restrictions on Yellowstone. Holly Howe seconded the motion and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

**Right of Way Dedications/Sidewalk Waiver/Annexation Waivers**

Will Rose requested approval of right of way dedications/sidewalk waivers and annexation waivers based on new construction permits within the City, and permits in the Cherry Hill Subdivision outside of the City limits.

**MOTION:** Steve Poulos moved to approve the right of way dedications/sidewalk waiver/annexation waivers. Holly Howe seconded the motion and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

**Engagement Letter – Baker Tilly US, LLP**

Attorney Patrick Lyp presented an engagement letter between City of Valparaiso and Baker Tilly US, LLP. This has to do with the issuance of bonds for the sports complex. This is a Redevelopment Commission matter.

**MOTION:** Holly Howe moved to approve the Engagement Letter with Baker Tilly US, LLP. Steve Poulos seconded the motion and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

### **Engagement Letter – Barns & Thornburg**

Attorney Patrick Lyp presented an engagement letter between City of Valparaiso and Barns & Thornburg. This has to do with the issuance of bonds for the sports complex. This is a Redevelopment Commission matter.

**MOTION:** Holly Howe moved to approve the Engagement Letter with Barns & Thornburg. Steve Poulos seconded the motion and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

### **Renewal Agreement – Thomas Reuters**

Attorney Patrick Lyp presented a Renewal Agreement with Thomas Reuters for West Proflex in the amount of \$319.69 per month.

**MOTION:** Holly Howe moved to approve the Renewal Agreement with Tomas Reuters in the amount of \$319.69 per month. Steve Poulos seconded the motion and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

### **Amendment to General Order, Section II, Emergency Sworn Officer Hiring Process**

Assistant Chief DeHaven presented an Amendment to General Order, Section II, Emergency Sworn Officer Hiring Process. They have one vacancy. They have several officers in training, one officer is injured and impending retirements. This allows them to hire sworn officers.

**MOTION:** Holly Howe moved to approve the General Order, Section II, Emergency Sworn Officer Hiring Process. Steve Poulos seconded the motion and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

### **Amendment to General Order, Section III, Lateral Entry Program for Officers**

Assistant Chief DeHaven presented an Amendment to General Order, Section III, Lateral Entry Program for Officers. This offers paid vacation time to new hires commensurate with their years of service when hired.

**MOTION:** Holly Howe moved to approve the General Order, Section III, Lateral Entry Program for Officers. Steve Poulos seconded the motion and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

### **Application for Roadway on Railroad Property or Railroad Crossing**

Beth Shrader presented an application for Roadway on Railroad Property or Railroad Crossing. This is in conjunction with the Rail District Trail. The fee for this is capped at \$4,500. This is paid for by the Redevelopment Commission.

**MOTION:** Steve Poulos moved to approve the application for Roadway on Railroad Property or Railroad Crossing in an amount not to exceed \$4,500. Holly Howe seconded the motion and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

### **Conflict of Interest Forms**

Clerk-Treasurer Taylor requested approval of five Conflict of Interest forms.

**MOTION:** Steve Poulos moved to approve five Conflict of Interest Forms. Holly Howe seconded the motion and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

### **Disability Awareness Keynote Speaker Agreement**

Maggie Clifton presented a Client Agreement form from the Speaker Exchange for Jason Benetti to speak on Disability awareness on March 21<sup>st</sup> at Ivy Tech. The Agreement is in the amount of \$13,000 for the speaker. It also is a rental agreement with Ivy Tech. The goal is to cover most of the expense with sponsorships.

**MOTION:** Holly Howe moved to approve the Disability Awareness Keynote Speaker Agreement with Speaker Exchange for Jason Benetti and Ivy Tech. Steve Poulos seconded the motion and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

### **Valparaiso Compost Site Agreement**

Steve Poulos presented an Agreement with the Valparaiso Compost Site and Porter County Recycling & Waste Reduction District. This is the same agreement executed every year. The District supplies the personnel and equipment. The District supplements the cost of grinding up to \$40,000 for the brush delivered by the City.

**MOTION:** Holly Howe moved to approve the Valparaiso Compost Site Agreement with the Porter County Recycling & Waste Reduction District. Mayor Murphy seconded the motion and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

### **Personnel Bonds**

Clerk-Treasurer Taylor presented bonds for herself, the Mayor, Don Lorntzen, Mike Jessen, and Bob Schulte.

**MOTION:** Steve Poulos moved to approve the Bonds as presented. Holly Howe seconded the motion and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

### **Circle R Mechanical – RTU Replacement**

Clerk-Treasurer Taylor presented a quote from Circle R Mechanical to replace four roof top units at the Police Station. The quote is \$46,914. This will be paid out of LIT.

**MOTION:** Holly Howe moved to approve the quote from Circle R Mechanical in the amount of \$46,914. Steve Poulos seconded the motion and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

### **Public Comment**

Barbara Domer – 614 Yellowstone Road. She heard the weight limit sign will go up on Yellowstone. She also heard the exceptions one being all public works/utility maintenance vehicles. This is not what they want. That is part of the problem. The road has turned into a commercial thoroughfare with the majority of the vehicles being public works vehicles. Her concern is for the safety and wellbeing of the citizens on Yellowstone Road. The 24 hour traffic study was conducted in January. There are no City vehicles on that road unless it is snowing. The No Through Truck signs were removed in August 2019. At a Board of Works meeting the request was made due to issues involving the weight of trucks crossing the bridge on Campbell. Why doesn't the City fix the bridge instead of turning them onto Yellowstone Road.

Mary Abraitus – 605 Yellowstone. The residents of Yellowstone Road have continued to demand the No Through Truck regulation. Government doesn't have rights. Individuals have rights. She has signed a notarized directive that no agreement, no alliance, no reconciliation, or give any consent that installing any weight and measures sign is a suitable solution to safeguard our community. Public officials have been asked to engage in a better solution. If the municipality wants a convenient off-road access, you can make one. It would probably be cheaper than liability they have opened the door to.

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