

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY
VALPARAISO, INDIANA
February 26, 2021**

The Board of Public Works & Safety of Valparaiso, Indiana met February 26, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. in City Hall. Present were Mayor Murphy, Holly Howe and Steve Poulos. Mayor Murphy called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion: Holly Howe moved that the minutes of the February 12, 2021 meeting be approved, seconded by Steve Poulos and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

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

Calkins' Hill Subdivision Performance Bond

Attorney Todd Leeth has requested this item be removed from the Agenda.

Unsafe Building Hearing – 501 Indiana Avenue

Attorney Alfredo Estrada submitted additional pictures of the structure at 501 Indiana Avenue. This structure had been on the Code Enforcement Docket with no cooperation from the property owner. Building Department Director, Vicki Thrasher, has inspected the structure at 501 Indiana Avenue and finds it to be unsafe. There is an encroachment issue with the neighbor at 503 Indiana. This will be remedied once the structure is demolished.

Attorney Estrada questioned Vicki Thrasher regarding her inspection of the structure. She advised the roof is in poor condition with missing/curled/damaged shingles. No gutters. Foundation has significant holes and cracks. No landing and stairs at rear door. Front porch in poor condition with rotted and weathered wood in need of paint. Front porch handrails and guards are unsafe. Siding missing or loose on some areas and in need of paint. She deems this to be a public nuisance and a safety hazard. The building is abandoned.

Aldon Engstrom of 503 Indiana addressed the Board. He has had an issue with the property owner regarding the encroachment of the garage on his property. The property has been vacant for 2-3 years. A few years ago people came and removed things from inside the structure. Attorney Estrada advised Mr. Engstrom that if this demolition is approved today, he will work with him to clear up any issues of the encroachment.

Attorney Estrada stated there have been multiple notices to the owner. There has been no response. They have sent notices by certified mail, regular mail and it has been published in the newspaper.

Attorney Estrada presented a proposed Order to Demolish and requested approval to file it. Once the Order is filed, the owner has 30 days to demolish the building on his own. If not, the City can advertise for bids to demolish or do it in house. The City can then record a lien and start the foreclosure process.

Motion: Holly Howe moved to approve filing the Order to Demolish and take care of the encroachment issue, seconded by Steve Poulos and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

DLZ Indiana LLC – Agreement for Environmental Documentation Services

Mike Jabo stated the City applied for and was awarded a Community Crossing Matching Grant for the Eisenhower Avenue Project. A State Environmental Policy Act environmental assessment will be required for submittal to INDOT. The City is in the process of preparing a grant application for submittal for the IDNR Indiana Trail Program. As part of the submittal process, initial environmental assessment and transmittal of early coordination letters are required to flag any major issues that may impact the project. Mike Jabo requested approval to enter into an Agreement with DLZ for the preparation of the environmental documents required for the two grant opportunities. The total amount of the Agreement is \$12,200. The City Attorney has reviewed the document. It is the recommendation of the Engineering Department that the Board of Public Works and Safety approve this Agreement for professional services with DLZ Indiana, LLC.

Motion: Steve Poulos moved to approve the Agreement for Environmental Documentation Services with DLZ, Indiana, LLC, seconded by Holly Howe and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Site Work Application for Comcast – 2552 Industrial Drive

Site Work Application for Maplenet Wireless- 1251 Eastport Center Drive

Mike Jabo requested approval of two Site Work Applications. One for Comcast at 2552 Industrial Drive. And, one Site Work Application for Maplenet Wireless at 1251 Eastport Center Drive. It is the recommendation of the Engineering Department that the Site Work Applications be approved.

Motion: Steve Poulos moved to approve the Site Work Applications of Comcast and Maplenet, seconded by Holly Howe and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Resolution No. 1, 2021 – Transfer of a Fire Engine to the City of Gary

Chief Chad Dutz explained the City of Gary had a front-line fire engine damaged. They do not have a spare. The City of Valparaiso has an engine they have not used since 2018. He presented Resolution No. 1, 2021 which authorizes the transfer of a fire engine from the City of Valparaiso Fire Department to the City of Gary Fire Department. This has been reviewed by the City attorney. The City of Gary's Board of Works will have to adopt a Resolution also. Once that is done, the transfer can be made.

Motion: Holly Howe moved to approve Resolution No. 1, 2021 to transfer a fire engine to the City of Gary, seconded by Steve Poulos and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

IDNR Indiana Trail Program – Application Checklist

Mike Jabo advised the Board that the City is applying for an IDNR Indiana Trail Program grant. If received, the grant will be in the amount of \$250,000 and the City's matching amount will be \$178,000

which he expects to take out of the Sidewalk and Pathway Funds. The grant application requires a Grant Application checklist to be submitted. Mike requested approval of the Grant Application Checklist.

Motion: Steve Poulos moved to approve for submittal the Grant Application Checklist for the IDNR Indiana Trail Program grant, seconded by Holly Howe and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Citizen Requests

- St. Paul's annual Spirit 5K walk/run taking place on Saturday April 17, 2021 beginning at 9:00 am and finishing around 11:00 am;
- Grand Opening of the Library Garden at 106 Jefferson taking place on Wednesday May 12, 2021 from 4:30 pm to 9:00 pm.

Motion: Steve Poulos moved that the citizen requests as presented be approved, seconded by Holly Howe and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.