

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY  
VALPARAISO, INDIANA  
October 22, 2021**

The Board of Public Works & Safety of Valparaiso, Indiana met October 22, 2021 at 10:00 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 October 8, 2021 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.

**Monroe Street Parking Restriction Removal**

Mike Jabo requested approval to remove the three-hour parking restriction on approximately 10 parking spaces on the north side of Monroe Street between Franklin and Michigan.

**Motion:** Holly Howe moved to approve the removal of the three-hour parking restriction on approximately 10 parking spaces on the north side of Monroe Street between Franklin and Michigan, seconded by Steve Poulos and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

**Annual HVAC Maintenance Agreement**

Brent Dickson requested approval to switch the annual HVAC maintenance service agreement from Parkway Mechanical to Circle R Mechanical. This is the same service we currently get, and the cost will drop from \$4,210 to \$2,740 annually.

**Wi-Fi for Compost Site**

Brent Dickson requested approval to enter into an Agreement with Comcast to provide wi-fi at the compost site. Currently they have been using the County's service which is unreliable. This will enable them to automatically load daily information from the Compost Site and download this data at the end of the workday. Attorney Patrick Lyp clarified there should not be an automatic renewal on this Agreement.

**Motion:** Holly Howe moved to approve switching the annual HVAC Maintenance Agreement to Circle R Mechanical and approve installing wi-fi at the compost site, seconded by Steve Poulos and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

**Property Maintenance/Rental Housing Code Violation Matters**

Attorney Alfredo Estrada addressed the Board. At today's hearings the determination was made to dismiss cases against 452 Locust, 701 Franklin, 608 Union and 501 Union. The remaining cases he recommends that they be continued. 803 Brown is a frat house. He spoke with the attorney involved this morning. They have entered into an agreement to do some major renovation.

Holly Howe asked about 1425 Glendale. Attorney Estrada explained the City is fining the owner daily. He has not gotten any response. There was supposed to be a closing for financing, and he has heard nothing on that. The Ordinance allows the property owner 40 days to respond to the fine. If they continue to be unresponsive, the next step could be

taking them to court. Attorney Estrada – later in the meeting – did receive a text from the property owner’s attorney stating there has been a closing and they intend to pay off all liens and get work moving.

**Motion:** Steve Poulos moved to approve dismissal of 452 Locust, 701 Franklin, 608 Union, 501 Union and continue all other properties on the docket, seconded by Holly Howe and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

### **Road Closures**

- Valpo Fire Department Statue Dedication, October 30, 2021 11:00 am – 1:00 pm Indiana Avenue from Franklin to Washington Street.
- Salvation Army Red Kettle Kick Off, November 12, 2021 3:00-5:00on Lincolnway in front of the Courthouse

**Motion:** Steve Poulos moved to approve the Road Closures as presented, seconded by Holly Howe and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

### **Section 5307 Fund Conveyance Agreement & CARES Act Fund Conveyance Agreement**

Don Lorntzen requested approval of a Section 5307 Fund Conveyance Agreement and CARES Act Conveyance Agreement. Both give the City until the end of the year to expend funds under Grant IN-2017-027 and Grant IN-2020-014.

**Motion:** Steve Poulos moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the Section 5307 Fund Conveyance Agreement and CARES Act Conveyance Agreement, seconded by Holly Howe and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

### **Fire Department Statue Dedication**

Attorney Patrick Lyp requested approval for the placement of a statue at 16 Indiana Avenue as a dedication for the Fire Department. Chief Dutz explained this is in front of the first fire station and the old City Hall.

**Motion:** Steve Poulos moved to approve the placement of a statue at 16 Indiana Avenue as a dedication for the Fire Department, seconded by Holly Howe and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

### **Opioid Litigation**

Attorney Patrick Lyp explained the State of Indiana has been negotiating a settlement with various opioid manufacturers and distributors. There was legislation passed in 2020 which prohibited cities and towns from initiating their own litigation unless it was already pending. The City had not filed a lawsuit and opted into litigation initiated by the Attorney General. This is a process that is done online. Attorney Lyp is requesting authorization to do the online opt in with this litigation. In early 2022 there should be some distributions from the State settlement.

**Motion:** Steve Poulos moved to authorize Attorney Patrick Lyp opting in on the litigation initiated by the Attorney General regarding opioids, seconded by Holly Howe and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

### **Street Maintenance Services - Pavement Solutions, Inc.**

Mike Jabo requested approval to accept Pavement Solution’s offer to extend their terms and unit prices from 2020 to 2021. Each Fall the City performs various street maintenance activities such as crack sealing, slurry seal and micro-surfacing. These lower cost techniques have proven to provide the best value for funds spent in extending the life of the streets. Pavement Solutions has offered to extend their terms and unit prices from 2020 to 2021. This has been

reviewed by the City Attorney. It is recommended to accept and approve the offer of Pavement Solutions for 2021 using 2020 prices.

**Motion:** Steve Poulos moved to approve accepting the offer of Pavement Solutions to extend their terms and unit prices from 2020 to 2021, seconded by Holly Howe and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

### **Alert Media Agreement**

Alina Hahn presented a report on a new communication system. Currently if they need to notify residents, they can utilize two systems, but it can take several hours. The systems are designed for non-emergency communication. The system proposed with Alert Media can notify residents at the rate of 2-4,000 per minute. The system is easy to use and can send out calls, emails, and texts. It can be used in non-emergency situations as well. The cost of the system is \$24,795. The City's portion is \$12,397.50 and the Utility will pay the other half. The contract is a three-year term. Steve Poulos added this system can be used by the entire City. There are options for customers so they can opt in from the City web page. They would like to open it up to people who are not a utility customer. This would be useful for people who work in Valpo but do not live in the City and would like to keep track of what is going on. The program is very user friendly.

**Motion:** Holly Howe moved to approve the contract with Alert Media for a communication system, seconded by Steve Poulos and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Holly Howe thanked Maggie Clifton for attending the last Banta Neighborhood meeting.

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