

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

VALPARAISO, INDIANA

October 10, 2025

The Board of Public Works and Safety of Valparaiso, Indiana met October 10, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. in City Hall. Present were Mayor Costas, Katrina Spence and Bill Oeding. Mayor Costas called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2025 meeting. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 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 3-0 vote.

Valpo REC Design-Build Proposal

Kevin Nuppnau - The Valpo Recreation and Enrichment Campus (Valpo REC) is a year-round, multi-purpose venue, the Valpo REC will offer diverse sports programs, interactive play areas, and educational opportunities, all within a single, dynamic campus. The Valpo REC is committed to providing a vibrant, welcoming space that fosters health, wellness, and community connection for all residents and visitors. The property site is 909 Lafayette Street. The building is 225,000 sq ft. The proposed Program is 130,000 sq ft +/- and it will be built as: Enrichment Areas – 12,000sq ft, Children's Museum/Interactive Play Space – 20,000 sq ft, Indoor Sport Courts – 25,000 sq ft, Indoor Turf – 32,000 sq ft, Meeting/Flex Space – 6,500 sq ft, Office Space – 4,000 sq ft, Concessions/Café – 3,200 sq ft, Walking Track – 3,000 sq ft.

A design-build project is a construction method where one entity, the design-builder, works under a single contract with the project owner to provide both the design and construction services. A design-build project is a construction method where one entity, the design-builder, works under a single contract with the project owner to provide both the design and construction services. The Design-Build Qualitative Proposal must include: Project Understanding, Project Challenges, Company Qualifications/Experience, Design-Build Experience, Team Organization, Key Personnel, Financial Responsibility, Project Controls/Schedule, and Statement of Why. The Design-Build Price Proposal must contain one (1) lump sum fixed cost of all design, construction engineering, inspection, and construction costs of the proposed project. The qualitative proposal and the price proposal must be submitted simultaneously in separately sealed and identified packages. The price proposal must remain sealed until opened in public.

Design Build Qualitative Proposals and Design Build Price Proposals were received from:

- Harbour Construction
- Walsh Group/Wightman
- Bear Construction/Studio GC

- ARCO National Construction
- Berglund Construction/Shive Hattery
- Lauth/Cripe
- Mortenson/Dewberry
- Tonn & Blank Construction/Elevatus Architecture
- Core Construction/Browning Day
- Hagerman Group/Schmidt Associates
- Skillman Corporation/RATIO
- F.A. Wilhelm Construction/MSKTD

Interviews were held with Berglund Construction/Shive Hattery, Mortenson/Dewberry, Tonn & Blank Construction/Elevatus Architecture, Core Construction/Browning Day, Hagerman Group/Schmidt Associates and Skillman Corporation/RATIO. Valpo Parks recommends engaging in contract negotiations with Tonn & Blank Construction and Elevatus Architecture as the Design-Build partner for the Valpo REC project. They are asking to be allowed to meet with Tonn and Blank and work through all of the elements that are in their proposal and to come to an agreement as to what this project will look like and what it will cost moving forward.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved that they approve the recommendation to move forward with Tonn & Blank. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Request for Grant Application INDOT – 2026-1 Community Crossings Matching Grant (CCMG) Program

The Engineering Department requests approval for the 2026-1 grant application to the INDOT Community Crossings program to fund road improvements throughout the City in 2026. The Engineering Department staff has reviewed the roads and recommends improvements to the streets, as shown on the provided list, for a total project amount of approximately \$2.5 million. This is a 50/50 grant program, so we will apply for the annual maximum of \$1 million, with the remaining \$1.5 million to be funded with local funds.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved that request for Grant Application INDOT – 2026-1 Community Crossing Matching Grant Program be approved. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Request Final Change Order Approval CCMG 2024-2 Paving Improvements

The CCMG 2024-2 paving improvements project has finished construction. Engineering Department staff are recommending approval of Change Order #1 reflecting additional road segment (McIntyre Ct), a final balance of quantities, and a contract time extension of 30 days. The time extension was related to coordination with City Utilities for Franklin St water main work near Lincolnway. This Change Order reflects an increase of \$44,877.77 for a total project amount of \$1,099,409.83.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved that the Final Change Order Approval CCMG-2024-2 Paving Improvements be approved. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Comprehensive Safety Action Plan Professional Services Agreement

City staff solicited proposals from multiple firms to compile a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan for the City's network of streets and sidewalks. The City has received a Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant from FHWA in the amount of \$180,000 for assistance with this endeavor. Three proposals were received. Staff reviewed and found Lochmueller Group to be the highest ranked firm. The Safety Action Plan will evaluate existing conditions and crash data and make recommendations for projects to improve safety. They recommend approval of the Lochmueller agreement in the amount of \$238,600.

Mayor Costas - How often do we do this?

Max Rehlander – The last one was in 2019. This one was required to be done. Moving forward a good cycle would be every 10 years. This is about an 18 month process.

MOTION: Bill Oeding moved that Safe Streets for All Comprehensive Safety Action Plan Professional Services Agreement be approved. Seconded by Mayor Costas and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Pathway Easement & Temporary Right of Entry The Courtyards at Pepper Creek

City staff are recommending acceptance of a Perpetual Pathway Easement and Temporary Right of Entry along the west side of Froberg Rd in front of The Courtyards at Pepper Creek. The easement will be utilized to complete a missing gap of the City's Pathway network from Vale Park Rd to Pepper Creek Bridge Parkway.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved that the Pathway Easement and Temporary Right of Entry at The Courtyards at Pepper Creek be approved. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Right of Way Dedication - 1706 Washington St - 206 Billings St

Engineering staff are recommending acceptance of Right of Way dedication for two parcels. Right of Way has been dedicated as part of the permit process in accordance with UDO requirements.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved that the Right of Way Dedication for 1706 Washington and 206 Billings be approved. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Street Closure

1. Silhavy Rd from Vale Park Rd to Rock Dove Ave 2. Jefferson St from Campbell St to Napoleon St

Location 1: As part of the City's Silhavy Sidewalk improvement project, the contractor is requesting road closure between Vale Park Road and Rock Dove Avenue. The closure is tentatively to be in place starting Monday October 13th at 7am and remain in place during daytime hours for a six week duration ending approximately on Friday November 21st. The closure is recommended for safety of the workers. Staff recommends approval of this closure request.

Location 2: City staff are requesting a single day closure of Jefferson St between Campbell and Napoleon St for the Utilities department to perform work related to the water service connections for the Grand Gardner Hotel project. Traffic will be detoured one block along local streets. Staff recommend approval of this closure request.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve the Street Closure request for Silhavy Road from Vale Park to Rock Dove Avenue and Jefferson Street from Campbell to Napoleon. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Annual Regional Partner Profile Partnership Agreement

Bill Oeding presented a Partnership Agreement with Greatnews Life. The total cost of this Agreement is \$9,350.00.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve the Annual Regional Partner Profile Partnership Agreement in the amount of \$9,350.00. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Opioid Grant Agreements

Holly Taylor presented the Opioid Grant Agreements that have been approved by the City Council.

New Creations Business Advocates
\$87,000.00

Community Change Center
\$25,632.00

Healing with Human Connection

\$20,000.00

*PACT

\$28,458.00

Case Manager/Grant Writer

Reentry Program Coordinator

Bridge to Recovery Hub Director
Program Facilitator, Training
Materials & Supplies

Part-Time Peer Recovery Coach

Hilltop House	Mission Kitchen Social Worker
\$50,000.00	
*Recycling & Waste/PC Health Dept	Sharps collection & Disposal
	Medication Disposal Program
\$12,500.00	
Valparaiso Police Dept	AEDs for all police vehicles
\$40,000.00	
*Valparaiso Community Schools	Parental Consent Drug Screening
5,500.00	\$
*Moraine House	House Repairs
\$30,000.00	
The Caring Place	Women's Recovery Program
\$20,000.00	
Valparaiso Family YMCA	Recovery & Wellness
\$16,530.00	
Strides Against Suicide	Substance Abuse & Mental
	Health Treatment
<u>\$11,250.00</u>	
\$346,870.00	

* Have not received signed contract back.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve the Opioid Grant Agreements as presented. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Street Closures

- Helmet Hustle & Dalmatian Dash, October 25, 2025
- Valpo Events Holly Days, December 6, 2025, December 6, 2025
- Extra Mile Resolution Run, January 1, 2026
- Extra Mile Valentines Day Run, February 8, 2026

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 3-0 vote.

Public Assembly Request

This request is made by James Ferguson. He is requesting to organize on the northwest corner of the Courthouse Square on Sundays October 12, 2025 through April 12, 2026 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. He will be by himself with a table and chairs. This has been confirmed with Valparaiso Police Department. He 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. He 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.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve the request for Public Assembly on the northwest corner of the Courthouse Square on Sundays October 12, 2025 through April 12, 2026 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

West Street Closure - NIPSCO

NIPSCO is requesting a closure of West Street between Marsh Street and Horseprairie Ave to reframe existing utility poles and provide service to the new development on US 30. They are asking for a 3 day closure beginning October 14th through October 16th. West Street will be open overnight. The Engineering Department has reviewed this closure request and recommends approval.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve the request of NIPSCO for the closure of West Street between Marsh and Horseprairie beginning October 14th through October 16th. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

2026-2028 FOP Lodge #76 Contract

Bill Oeding and Officer Joe Cowser presented the 2026-2028 contract between the City and FOP Lodge #76. They raised specialty pay and added two new specialties. They updated the uniform allowance. They implemented a maternity and paternity leave. They extended the take home car policy for on call police officers and their specialties.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve the 2026-2028 FOP Lodge #76 Contract with the City of Valparaiso. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

CHANGES IN THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION AND CITY OF VALPARAISO FEDERAL OPERATING ASSISTANCE FUNDS.

Don Lorntzen – He presented an Amendment to a Grant they are using for DASH Routes 1 through 4. It extends the date to March 30, 2026.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve changing the date to March 30, 2026 in the Agreement between NIRPC and the City of Valparaiso Federal Operating Assistance Funds. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Public Hearing - Dash Route 5 Reduction -Eliminating Three Friday Routes

Don Lorntzen – The fifth route of the DASH was funded by a grant. Funding is coming to an end. The ridership is still down since COVID. They have been talking since June how to manage the existing routes and keep them going. He has put out surveys in many different formats. Eliminating the fifth route will free up about \$247,000 in contractor fees and \$15,000 in fuel. He does not think this will be permanent. The recommendation right now is to eliminate the fifth route and use the savings to fund the other four routes.

Public Hearing

Melissa Macaluso – 360 Locust Street. She takes the bus Monday through Friday. She feels times should be adjusted and surveys given to all of the passengers. There is a lot of flexibility between passengers. Canceling the fifth bus on Friday morning is going to hurt a lot of people. People use it for day trips and commuting to Union Station. A lot of people are taking the South Shore. She asked if on some of the lower ridership routes they could use a smaller bus.

Seeing no one else wishing to address the Board, Mayor Costas declared the Public Hearing closed.

Don Lorntzen – After much discussion the recommendation is to not necessarily eliminate the fifth route but take the time for the fourth and fifth route and merge them to a schedule that is a little more convenient.

Legal Services Agreement - Patrick Lyp

Mayor Costas presented a Legal Services Agreement with Patrick Lyp. The contract is for hourly wages for legal services until a replacement is found.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve the Legal Services Agreement with Patrick Lyp. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Washington Street - Halloween

Bill Oeding has spoken with residents in the north area of town. He has talked to Department heads to make the Washington Street area safer for trick or treat. He will be back before the BOW before Halloween for approval.

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)

No One wished to address the Board.

There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned.

