

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
VALPARAISO, INDIANA
APRIL 22, 2004

The Board of Public Works and Safety met at 10:00am on Thursday, April 22, 2004. Present were Mayor Costas and Board Member John Hardwick.

Mayor Costas called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES AND CLAIMS

Mr. Hardwick moved the minutes of the previous meeting be approved, seconded by the Mayor and so approved.

Mr. Hardwick moved for approval of claims subject to appropriation balances, seconded by the Mayor and so approved.

ITEM 2-VALPO PARKS AND YMCA

The Valpo Parks Department and Valpo YMCA request to host the 2nd annual Triathlon on July 10, 2004. The Mayor moved for approval, seconded by Mr. Hardwick and so approved.

ITEM 3-PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT STREETSWEeper GRANT

Mr. Oeding stated they will be applying to IDEM for a \$25,000 grant to purchase new street sweepers. Part of the process for IDEM is to bring this matter before the BOW and City Council for public input. The Mayor moved for approval, seconded by Mr. Hardwick and so approved.

ITEM 1-POLICE DEPARTMENT HANDBOOK-CIVILIAN

Chief Brickner stated currently the VPD supports 48 officers and 18 civilians under two different policies. The Policy and Procedures for Officers is very in depth including vacation time, time off, conduct and so forth. There is also Policy and Procedures for civilian employees. They and the Fire Department are the only departments having two policies that are interpreted daily for management. There have been difficulties already this year in managing civilian employees, particularly time off and call off. There have been situations that he feels are public safety issues. For civilians, particularly telecommunicators calling off at the last minute without any accountability as opposed to officers under the same circumstances with a procedure to follow. There has to be sufficient manpower and cannot be a public safety risk. The civilian handbook does not cover this accountability. He has met with HR Director Karen Marben. They feel it would simplify things for management to have the civilians abide by the guideline procedures the same as a Police Officer relevant to all the duties. He asked for a single handbook for all employees that work out of a public safety building. He feels it would benefit all concerned. Mr. Hardwick moved for approval, seconded by the Mayor and so approved.

ITEM 4-ORAK SHRINE

The Orak Shrine requested to sell Vadalina Onions at area business with their approval during May. Mr. Hardwick moved for approval, seconded by the Mayor and so approved.

ITEM 5-THE COTTAGES SURETY

Mayor Costas moved to table this item until next meeting to recuse himself, seconded by Mr. Hardwick and so approved.

ITEM 6-BURLINGTON BEACH ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Mayor Costas moved to table this item also until next meeting to recuse himself, seconded by Mr. Hardwick and so approved.

ITEMS 7-STURDY ROAD IMPROVEMENT BIDS

Mr. Marovich representing the Engineer stated this is the area from US 30 to the torch entrance to the University. The project involves pavement improvements, right turn lane at 30, sidewalks, bike path, landscaping, and decorative lighting. The project is funded by the RDC. Plans will be available about May 10. Mr. Hardwick moved for approval seconded by the Mayor and so approved.

ITEM 8-WEST SIDE SEWER PROJECT BIDS

John Hardwick stated the West Side Sewer Project covers sewer lines to run up Froberg Rd. to Ransom Rd. The project should be completed by October, 2004. Plans will be available May 1, 2004 through the Engineer-DLZ. The bids will be due at the May 27 meeting. Mr. Hardwick moved for approval to solicit bids, seconded by the Mayor and so approved.

ITEM 9-ROCKWELL CORNERS

Mayor Costas stated the required documents were not received in time to make a motion, he moved to table until the next meeting, seconded by Mr. Hardwick and so approved.

ITEM 10-CLOSE VALPARAISO STREET

Jon Gertsmeier requested closing Valparaiso Street between Jefferson and Chicago streets for 24-36 hours May 14th in conjunction with an auction. Mr. Hardwick stated there must be approval from the Police and Fire Departments and he moved for approval subject to that, seconded by the Mayor and so approved.

OTHER BUSINESS-HARRISON WEST SURETY

Mr. Marovich stated the surety is in place currently. It comes due May9th in the amount of \$18,265. Remaining work is a strip of asphalt for widening a shoulder on Harrison Blvd. He asked approval for Engineer Pilz to send a letter to the bank taking the initial step in claiming default. Mr. Hardwick moved for approval, seconded by the Mayor and so approved.

MILTON STREET SEWER SEPARATION PROJECT

John Hardwick asked approval for the proposal of DLZ for design bidding on that project permitting (inaudible) tech services not to exceed \$38,910. He moved for approval, seconded by the Mayor and so approved.

STURDY ROAD LIFT STATION

Mr. Hardwick presented a contract also with DLZ for work on the Sturdy Road Lift Station and tributary area not to exceed \$39,200. He moved for approval, seconded by the Mayor and so approved.

CAR WASH DEMOLITION

Mayor Costas stated the City and owner Mr. Cobb have come to an agreement that is set forth in a contract between the City, Water Department, and Mr. Cobb dated April 15, 2004. Mr. Cobb will remove the structure as part of the Valparaiso Street Project within 30 days pending the contract approval of the BOW and the Water Department. Mr. Hardwick moved for approval, seconded by the Mayor and so approved.

LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

John Seibert City Administrator stated the preliminary strategic plan will be presented at the Saturday morning council meeting for review and discussion. Craig Phillips is working with the Community Development Planner Chris Owens to meet with the Valparaiso Economic Development Corp. officers to get the downtown implementations to a specific schedule.

Bill Hanna Economic Development Director stated he has 2 businesses on the City Council agenda for Monday seeking abatement. These are new jobs for the community. One is a relocation from Chicago. There is also progress in the Incubator and Technology Park. They are working on physical aspects with the architect with support from PNC. He will be attending a meeting about the wireless initiative.

Fire Chief Nondorf reported on the Rebuilding Together that was Saturday. The on duty men as well as off duty men responded to a structure fire. The Mayor and Clerk Treasurer stopped by the scene.

Linda Zyla reported on the scheduling of 2 meetings in May to introduce the strategic plan to the public.

John Hardwick stated the Water Reclamation Department re-engineering project continues with cross-training plans. Steve Poulos, Manager is completing a training manual in which 4 volunteer employees will do the training that is for plant operation and will allow more operators to have a pool. On the Water Department side a court hearing is scheduled June 3rd for re-establishing the Loomis Lake surface level that is set by the court. The purpose being they then can complete the spillway across the dam that holds the lake in place.

Steve Doniger said they are currently working with Dave Pilz and the Engineering office on Sturdy Rd. in regard to flower beds, etc. They worked together with Kiwanis Club in working on a home and were recipients at Banta Center of materials and volunteers to paint the facility. They are involved in Westgate planting of trees in the area. They are working with Healthy Kids Initiative with schools and PE teachers.

Chief Brickner announced they received a \$4,500 donation from State Farm Insurance for purchasing video cameras and software for accident reconstruction. Also a \$2,500 donation from Special Kids Special Needs Committee for software for investigating child sexual abuse, sting operations, and chat rooms for identifying pedophiles. They had a Bike Patrol training session last Saturday.

Karen Marben reported in regard to community services she is Team Captain for Relay for Life and has begun to raise money for cancer research.

Don McGinley reported LaPorte Phase 3 is starting pre-construction this week with the intent to start next week. The Westside Sewer will soon be advertising for bids in Regional Reports, Construction Digest, etc because it will be an aggressive project. The plans will not be distributed in house, but will be through Hammond's DLZ office. Easement acquisition is in the works.

John Marovich said they were able to download traffic counts at LaPorte and Silhavy and Linden Dr. He reported on the Calumet/Glendale intersection study.

Craig Phillips Planning Director reported he is working on the Annexation Policy to present a draft to Council May 22nd.

Bill Oeding said they also worked on Rebuilding Together. Cleanup Valpo Days are today and tomorrow to encourage homeowners to clean and put out for pickup.

OTHER BUSINESS-POLICE DEPARTMENT WRECKER SERVICE

Chief Brickner stated last week the Board approved a policy for the wrecker service, there are currently two services on the tow list. At this time he would like to add Sandberg's for rotation on the list. This does not require Board approval.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in Executive Session at 11:00am on Thursday, April 8, 2004 relative to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1 (b) (6). The Board adjourned after 20 minutes due to the failure of the complaining witness to appear. No other business was discussed and no vote was taken.