CITY OF EAST CHICAGO BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD MEMBERS
Val Gomez, President
Winna Guzman, Vice-President
Frank Rivera, Member

Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.

Reported by Fissinger & Associates, Ltd.
By: Peggy S. LaLonde

Staff Present: Olga Cosme, Recording Secretary
Shana Levinson, Attorney

Call to Order: 4:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Val Gomez
Winna Guzman
Frank Rivera

MR. GOMEZ: Good afternoon everyone. I'd like to call to order the regular meeting of the Board of Public Works for March 12th, 2026. We do have a quorum.

I'd like to make a motion to approve the minutes for the February 26th, 2026 meeting, as written.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

We have no correspondence, we'll move on to New Business. First item on the agenda is Hasse Construction, Change Order #5 for Magoun Avenue Reconstruction. We do have a letter from Short Elliott & Hendrickson.

"Please see attached Hasse Change Order #5 for heavy cleaning and repair of the sewer under the CXS tracks before the slip lining was installed. This worked had to be done and was discussed in our meetings. There is no additional cost to be

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added, this amount for $41,145.00 can be paid from the extra work line item."

And we do have the Change Order #5 and it says basically the same thing. "After initial cleaning of initial sewer under CXS railroad tracks additional cleaning and repairs needed before the slip line was installed. Hasse has not added any markup for this work and we have the attached invoice, there is no increase or decrease."

Any questions or comments on the Change Order #5 for Magoun Avenue Reconstruction? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion to approve Change Order #5 for the Magoun Avenue Reconstruction, Chicago Avenue to West Columbus Drive.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have from Public Works, it's from Interstate Power Systems. We have the 2026 rate table with the not-to-exceed of $10,000.00.

Any questions -- it's $10,000.00 for Public Works and $10,000.00 for other departments -- any questions or comments on this rate schedule? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Interstate's rate schedule for 2026 for Public Works and other departments.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Move on to Rieth Riley. This is also for Public Works. This is the 2026 rate schedule for hot and cold patches with a not-to-exceed of $20,000.00. This is just for Public Works.

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Rieth Riley's 2026 rate schedule for hot and cold repairs.

MS. GUZMAN: Second.

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MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Move on to outstanding invoices. I'd like to make a comment. There was one missing. We have four on the agenda, but there is actually five. The fifth one is for G & J Auto for the Fire Department.
As is our practice, I'll read each one and then make a motion at the end.
First one is from Public Works for Gateway business. They have one late invoice dated 12/5/25 in the amount of $116.70. Explanation: Invoice was overlooked by Public Works front office.
Any questions or comments on this one? (None)
Next one is from the Law Department. It's Paralegal Enedina Rodriguez. One late invoice dates 3/17/23 and the amount is $24.93. The reason this one is over two years old, the check was actually mailed out, but it was never reported lost or stolen. The check happened to be in somebody's desk drawer for over two years and when we received the list from the bank, the check that over two years old was on there. Enedina saw it was actually made out to her.
Any questions or comments on this one? (None)
Next one is from the Engineering Department from Butler Fair & Seufert. Two late invoices dated 4/28/25 for $6,223.75 and one dated 6/23/25 in the amount of $6,762.50; total of $12,986.25. Explanation: Invoices were received late. We were not aware until we received a statement that they were late. Services have been rendered and invoices should be processed.
Any questions or comments on this one? (None)
Next we have from the Fire Department. It's from Main Sporting Goods. We have one late invoice dated 12/11/25. The amount is $138.00. Explanation: Missing in paperwork.
Any questions or comments on this one? (None)
The final late invoice is also from the Fire Department. It's for G & J Auto Parts dated 12/8/25. The amount is $1,158.76. Explanation: Missing in paperwork.
Any questions or comments on this one? (None)
There being no further questions or

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comments I'd like to make a motion approving for payment the five aforementioned late invoices.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have from Hoosier Fire Equipment. This is for bunker gear for the Fire Department and this is for new probationary firefighters. They do have a sole proprietary form. This is same company that they have been receiving their bunker gear, firefighting gear from. And the amount for this proposal is $7,275.58. We do have a letter from the Chief or Deputy Chief.
"Please consider my request to approve new bunker gear for our new probationary firefighters. Attached you will find a quote from Hoosier Fire Equipment which has provided all of our past bunker gear."
And they have available funds in their budget.
Any questions or comments on this one? (None)
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Hoosier Fire Equipment's proposal for the Fire Department.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
We have another for the Fire Department. This is from Star Uniform. This is for uniforms for all the firefighters, 11 sets. There is a sole proprietary form attached and a not-to-exceed of $25,000.00. This is for regular uniforms, not the firefighting gear.
Any questions or comments on this one? (None)
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Star Uniform's proposal for East Chicago Fire Department.
MR. RIVERA: Second.
MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

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(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have from the Fire Department again, Breathing Air Systems. Request to open a purchase order for Breathing Air Systems to perform the annual maintenance and annual inspections on our breathing air systems at all fire stations. They have a not-to-exceed of $5,000.00.

This is the company they have been doing business with for, I think, over 15 years. As a matter of fact, it's longer than that. So there's a not-to-exceed of $5,000.00.

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Breathing Air Systems proposal for the Fire Department for their air systems.

MS. GUZMAN: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have from the Fire Department, we have ESO renewal agreement. This ESO's, their annual agreement. ESO services provides us with our report writing software. This is software for the fire incidents, for inspections and for properties. And this is another company that we have been using for over a decade. They should have included a sole proprietary form, they did not, but I did remind them about that. The cost is $11,125.67.

Any questions or comments on this?

MS. GUZMAN: I noted that the contact information is wrong. Maybe we can note to them that Maria is no longer working there. She's been gone some time. Maybe send an e-mail to Carmen. It should be Carmen Cordova. Just a comment.

MR. RIVERA: I should have caught that. I didn't catch that.

MR. GOMEZ: Any other questions or comments? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving ESO's renewal agreement with East Chicago Fire Department.

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MS. GUZMAN: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have Falcon Security Services. Fire Department is requesting for Falcon Security Services to provide security services for our warming and cooling shelters. There's a not-to-exceed of $4,000.00. We have, Falcon Security, I believe we have been using them for the past three years to provide security for the emergency shelters. There's a not-to-exceed of $10,000.00. It has their rate schedule for hours, holidays, and does have a minimum of four hours.

Any questions or comments on this proposal? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Falcon Security Services for our emergency shelters.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MS. LEVINSON: Out of curiosity, the not-to-exceed in the body of the document says $10,000.00, at the bottom it says $4,000.00.

MR. GOMEZ: I don't know if they were going to get just a blanket number to pay for it. I think, because they are going on past practice, we rarely open it up, but for some reason a lot of people they will come in and then leave. I think maybe they are thinking we might have to need more security.

MS. COSME: I spoke with Carmen. Initially the purchase order was for $6,000.00. They were about to exceed that, so that's why they wanted to open one for the remaining $4,000.00.

MS. LEVINSON: Okay, that makes sense.

MR. GOMEZ: I need all the help I can get. All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have from Special Events, we have a donation check. This donation check is from Cleveland-Cliffs in the amount of $25,000.00. They did send a letter.

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"This note is to confirm that the enclosed check, number 0000096165, from Cleveland-Cliffs in the amount of $25,000.00 is intended to be applied toward the Special Events Committee."

And this is from Melissa Benedict, Senior Manager, Community Relations for Cleveland-Cliffs.

Any questions or comments on this donation?

MR. RIVERA: Second. I do want to send something to let them know that we thank them very much for the check.

MR. GOMEZ: Usually Winna jumps in there. We'll make a record. Special Events does send a thank you.

MS. GUZMAN: Yes, we do. We'll be working on that. I just want to say thank you and we appreciate that every year they assist us. That's a Gold Level sponsorship, so we truly appreciate the generous donation.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next item on the agenda is from Mad Bomber for fireworks display on July 4th, at five different locations. The total is $132,000.00. That comes from the Gaming Budget. We have the Mad Bomber's invoice and that's for $132,000.00.

I do have one comment on this. I did receive a phone call from the Mayor's financial advisor. They said for us to approve it, but he wants us to put subject to funding. He was questioning the amount, so I didn't want to stop it. I told him I would make a motion to approve it subject to him seeking funding with Administration.

Any other questions or comments on the proposal from the Mad Bomber for 4th of July?

MS. GUZMAN: I just want to say, they do a great job as well.

MR. GOMEZ: Ever since we started doing five locations, I think they look at it, you don't have to go to the Lake. You can stay at home and see it from your home.

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MR. RIVERA: Sit in your lounge chairs and see it.

MS. GUZMAN: We have special team members that work, so it was hard for us to enjoy the time and now we get to enjoy it. I look forward to that day.

MR. GOMEZ: Any other comments? (None)
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Mad Bomber's proposal to Special Events for the 4th of July fireworks display at five locations, subject to approval with the funding by the Administration's financial officer.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have from Powers Health. This is occupational health services. We have their fee schedule and their drug testing rate for 2026. They have a not-to-exceed of $20,000.00 and they have provided an extensive list of all the services they offer. They also have a schedule, rate schedule of their various drug testing programs.
Any questions or comments on this proposal? (None)
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion to approve Powers Health's occupational health rate schedules.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have from Faegre Drinker two engagement letters. One is in connection with Central States and other one is with the Teamsters Local 142.
First one, "We will represent the City in connection with the Central States, Southeast and Southwest Area Health and Welfare Fund. In this engagement, we are not representing others, including the City's other agencies, affiliated entities, subsidiaries, related political subdivisions, appointing authorities, nor any individual director, officer, manager, or employee will be our client, except as we

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have or may agree in other separate engagements.
The fees will be based principally on the experience of the people providing services to you, and the actual hours worked, unless otherwise agreed. The 2026 hourly rates for the attorneys expected to work on this matter range from $525.00 to $1,080.00. Our rates are subject to change annually on January 1st, based on the individual's experience and other factors. Services rendered after the date of any rate change will be billed at the new rates."
The second one, as I mentioned, this one is in connection with litigation matters for Teamsters Local 142 and its Collective Bargaining Agreement and governing law.
I might mention, the first one, Central States, is actually the Teamsters insurance. They both are related.
"We will represent the City in connection with litigation matters involving Teamsters Local Union 142 and disputes over Collective Bargaining Agreement and governing law."
As far as fees, they are identical to the previous one. The fees will be based on hourly rates of attorneys at $525.00 to $1,080.00. And then both of them have the same letter, different sections, experiences and disbursements, invoices, the standard contract.
Any questions or comments on these two? (None)
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the engagement letters for Central States and Teamsters Local Union 142, their proposed proposal. I did talk to the Law Department, and they are both under the same PO for not-to-exceed of $100,000.00.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we come to Notice-to-Proceed. We have three Notices-to-Proceed. They are all for demolition.
The first one is a Notice-to-Proceed with contractor JM Industrial Services, 416 N. State Road 55, Fair Oaks, Indiana, for 4814 Olcott.
The next one is Richardson Disposal, 620 E. 10th Place, Gary, Indiana, for demolition at 3435

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Fir Street, rear only and 3421 Grand Boulevard, rear only.

The third one is for Notice-to-Proceed for JM Industrial again, 416 N. State Road 55, Fair Oaks, Indiana, and demolition is at 4236 Indianapolis Boulevard, garage only.

These contracts have been approved by our Board as far as back as November 13, '25; July 16, '25; the oldest one was December 8, '22, that's the oldest demo, for 4814 Olcott.

Any questions or comments on these Notices-to-Proceed for demolition? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the Notices-to-Proceed for JM Industrial and Richardson Disposal, JM Industrial has two.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have from Comcate, this is the Building Department. This is a proposal for software by Comcate. Software is for Code Enforcement software -- for the following items; for Code Enforcement Manager, $6,016.36; for Work Order Manager, $4,889.68; for GIS Enterprise, $6,613.38; fee tracker for CEM, $598.02. Total annual fee is $18,116.43. This will be billed from 3/27/26 through 3/26/27. That's for the Building Department software.

Any questions or comments on this proposal? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Comcate's software proposal with the Building Department.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have from the Police Department, we have an agreement with Lexipol. We have a letter from the Chief of the East Chicago Police Department.

"The East Chicago Police Department requests the approval of the attached agreement. This vendor maintains and updates the ECPD Rules and

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Regulations manual which all officers use as a guide to perform their respective duties. It is also a crucial digital reference tool for continuous daily legal updates."

The amount, when I talked to them, they do have a sole proprietary form which they did not include. The amount is $28,279.63. They have used this software for several years.

Any questions or comments on this? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the Rules and Regulations manual for the ECPD from Lexipol.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have from ASCAP 2026 rate schedule and report form, not-to-exceed of $2,000.00. This is from the Controller's Office. This is a fee we bill for playing music at the building here and at special events. So this is a licensing fee for us to play music. It's based on a set fee by population of 458, and one percent of the gross revenues. We calculated this so it won't go over the not-to-exceed of $2,000.00. Probably will be closer to 1,000, but we'll keep it at two.

Any questions or comments? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the rate schedule and the proposal fees for ASCAP with the Controller's Office for the music licensing.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next, Resolution 2026-04, a Resolution authorizing the purchase of mitigation credits for the Marquette Greenway Trail. Pursuant to Indiana 36-1-7-1, public agencies are allowed to enter into agreements to exchange services, supplies and equipment, and provide mutual aid and to authorize the purchase of required mitigation credits for emergent Wetland Mitigation and forested Wetland credits.

In accordance to the terms of the

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authorization to purchase Wetland Mitigation credits required by the Indiana Wetland Mitigation Program for the Bike and Pedestrian Facilities on the Marquette Greenway Trail and the Invoice, both incorporated herein, the Board of Public works resolves to authorize the purchase of the Wetland credits to move the building project forward.

Thereby the Board of Public Works authorizes its present or other members to execute the Authorization to purchase Wetland Mitigation Credit required by the Indiana Wetland Mitigation Program for the Bike and Pedestrian Facilities on the Marquette Greenway Trail, Authorization attached hereto as Exhibit A and invoice attached hereto as Exhibit B, made a part of and the following words to-wit:

Be it resolved that the prefatory paragraphs are incorporated herein as if it were fully set forth herein.

There is the official sheet where it tells you more detail, but I think our Attorney can probably explain it better. The way I gather it, if you are going to work on wetlands, you have to get this credit.

MS. LEVINSON: Correct. Wetlands and the forestry, they only want a certain amount taken out and mitigated.

MR. GOMEZ: The cost of this one would be, Calumet Dunes, $95,000.00 for everything.

MS. LEVINSON: The total is $104,500.00, but those credits, that's 1.1 acre.

MR. GOMEZ: Well, they want to keep our Wetlands. Any questions or comments on the Resolution 2026-04? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Resolution to 2026-04 for the purchase of Mitigation Credits for the Marquette Greenway Trail.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we come to, we have Hass Construction. If you recall, at our last meeting we

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opened the bids, 26th of February, on the Olcott Reconstruction Project. Before us today we have the Notice of Award of contract for the Olcott Reconstruction Project, contract and Form 96. At our last meeting, John Caruso of First Group Engineering, the firm overseeing the bid process, opened and read the bids into the record. They would submit the findings to us at tonight's meeting after reviewing the paperwork to assure all the paperwork was proper.

So, we have today from First Group Engineering, they approved Hasse as the lowest and most responsive bidder. We have on the agenda the notice of award for Hasse Construction, 10 Lincoln Avenue, Calumet City, Illinois, the contract for the Olcott Avenue Reconstruction Project. The contract price is $3,985,590.00. There's the notice for award.

In the contract, Hasse Construction, Article 1, the contractor shall complete all work as specified and indicated in the contract documents. The work is generally described as follows: Olcott Avenue Reconstruction Project.

The Project, of which the work under the contract documents is apart, is generally described as follows: Water main installation, storm and sanitary sewer improvements, pavement removal, subbase repair, concrete curb replacement, sidewalk and curb ramp removal and replacement, street lighting improvements, asphalt paving, striping and all restoration in the City of East Chicago.

The Owner may retain an Engineer to act as Owner's representative, assume all duties and responsibilities, and have the rights and authority assigned to Engineer in the contract documents in connection with the completion of the work in accordance with the contract documents.

The contract dates. Substantially completed by November 31, 2027 and completed and ready for final payment in accordance with Paragraph 15.06 of the general conditions by December 31, 2027.

The contract, we have all the paperwork in the bid package, all the forms. So we have to sign those that we received the contract and we also have to sign the contract from Public Works Form 96, and this is according to the State Board of Accounts, to provide the paperwork for this project.

Any questions or comments on Hasse Construction's notice of award, contract and Form 96 for the Olcott Reconstruction Project? (None)

There being no further questions or

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comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Hasse Construction's notice of award, the contract and Form 96 for the Olcott Reconstruction Project.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next on the agenda, we have one final thing, the right-of-way applications. We have Board of Public Works permit applications 26-05353 to 26-5370.

Any questions or comments on the 17 aforementioned permits? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the Board of Public Works permit applications.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

That concludes our New Business. I believe we have no other business.

Our next regular meeting will be Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.

That concludes all items on the agenda for tonight, I'd like to make a motion for adjournment.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned.

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Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of
March 12, 2026
Approved and Signed March 12, 2026.

_____
Val Gomez, President

_____
Winna Guzman, Vice President

_____
Frank Rivera, member

_____
Olga Cosme, Secretary

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Peggy S. LaLonde, a competent and duly qualified court reporter, do hereby certify that I did report in machine shorthand the foregoing proceedings and that my shorthand notes so taken at said time and place were thereafter reduced to typewriting under my personal direction.

I further certify that the foregoing typewritten transcript constitutes minutes of the said proceedings taken at said time and place, so ordered to be transcribed.

Dated at Munster, Indiana, this 16th day of March, 2026.



Peggy S. LaLonde

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