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 26, 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 26th, 2026. We do have a quorum.

I'd like to make a motion to approve the minutes for the March 12th, 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 from Bus Transit. It's the ECT Fund Conveyance Agreement. This agreement is between the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, herein referred to as the Commission and the East Chicago Transit, herein referred to as the Operator. Purpose: The purpose of this agreement is to set forth the terms and conditions under which the Commission will convey, to the Operator,

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Preventative Maintenance Funds to carry out a public transit project within Lake and/or Porter Counties, Indiana. Said Federal funds are received by the Commission through Grant In-2024-0004 from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration.

And just for the record, this is part of several agreements our City received from NIRPC and the Federal Government for operating our transit system. So this is how we receive our funding.

So the Project/Program to undertake and complete the public transit project in a manner compliant with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, the Grant Agreement, the FTA Agreement, the Grant Application, and with all other applicable federal and State laws, regulations and directives, all of which are incorporated herein by reference. The Operator agrees to notify the Commission of any potential claims and litigation against the federal government. The operator must also require all third-party participants to be included in this process.

Grant Proceeds: As far as the Grant, the maximum amount to be conveyed by the Commission to the Operator through this Agreement is $74,030.00. The Grant was awarded to the Commission on June 24, 2024. The total amount of federal preventative maintenance Funds that are obligated to the Operator, including the current obligation, is $74,030.00.

The period of performance is extended from July 1, 2025 to December 31, 2027.

As I mentioned before, our amount is $74,030.00 for this particular section of the agreement. We'll receive a letter later in the year and we'll get their agreements that are part of this.

Are there any questions or comments on Section 5307? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Section 5307 of the Agreement between NIRPC and East Chicago Bus Transit.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Now we have 2026 rate schedules for Public Works. We have one from Secure Shred and from Columbia Lock & Key.

The Secure Shred is 2026 rates for secure document destruction and recycling of electronics. They are asking for a $10,000.00 not-to-exceed.

Any questions or comments on this proposal? (None)

MR. GOMEZ: There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Public Works proposal from Secure Shred for destruction of documents.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

The other one from Columbia Lock & Key, also from Public Works, the 2026 rate table with a not-to-exceed of $5,000.00. This not-to-exceed of $5,000.00 for Public Works and for other departments.

Any questions on this proposal? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion accepting Columbia Lock & Key's proposed rate schedule for Public Works for 2026.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have True Green 2026 contract with Public Works. This is their 2026 contract for vegetation control and weeding throughout the City throughout the Spring and Summer.

I spoke to our Public Works Director and I asked him if he could put in a sole proprietorship because True Green, that's the company we have used for several years now and we are satisfied with it. So he said he would add it when he puts in the request for the PO. The amount for the entire year is $66,629.16.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposal? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving True Green's proposal with Public Works for weed control throughout the City for 2026.

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MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have from Steiner Electric, this is for our UPS systems. This is also from Public Works. It's a quote for Eaton 90X6 6kVA UPS systems at Public Safety. I believe these are their generators. This is the service contract which includes repairs and maintenance. It's one-year on parts. This starts March of 2026 and goes to February of 2027. The amount is $11,382.00. And this is also a contract they have had for quite a few years with this company.

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Steiner Electric's proposal with Public Works.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have from the Fire Department, we have Motorola Solutions. They provide radio customized work on Car 2502. They did attach the proprietary form with the paperwork. Motorola works on all the radios at the Fire Department. The amount for this work is $5,188.25. They are paying for this out of their own budget.

Any questions or comments on this proposal from Motorola Solutions? (None)

There being no questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Motorola's proposal with the Fire Department for the customized work on Car 2502.

MS. GUZMAN: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next, we have another one from the Fire Department. This is Chicago Communications, also related to work on Car 2502 with the previous proposal. This is obtaining a purchase order to perform work on Car 2503. They also have the sole proprietary form with

Chicago Communications. The amount for this proposal is $7,466.00. One company provides all the hardware and the other company is doing the labor.

Any questions or comments on this proposal? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to motion approving Chicago Communications proposal with the Fire Department for work on Car 2502.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have, also from the Fire Department, Interstate Power Systems. We have a letter from Fire Chief Escobedo.

"Please consider my request to approve the repairs for Engine 2814. Interstate Power Systems identified several issues regarding Engine 2814. Attached you will find an estimate which may increase due to further issues. As of March 20th, 2026, the estimate totals to $16,299.50. We have located available funds in the Vehicle Repair and Maintenance fund." This is actually one of their budget funds. They have listed $16,299.50 with a not-to-exceed of $19,000.00, just in case.

Are there any questions or comments on this one? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Interstate Power Systems proposal for Engine 2814 for the Fire Department.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Now we come to outstanding invoices. We have six outstanding invoices. We'll go through each one and make a motion at the end.

First one is Fire Services Incorporated for the Fire Department. One invoice dated 5/30/24, in the amount is $15,901.00. Explanation: When the purchase order was made in 2024, it was opened for a limited amount of $19,653.25 because it was the agreed upon amount. Since then, there have been

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multiple additional repairs that we were not informed of. Repairs took over a year and the final invoice indicating the total repairs was not received until November 2025.

Any questions or comments? (None)

Next, also from the Fire Department, this is from Hinckley Springs. Late invoice dated 1/14/26. The amount is $126.88. Explanation: It was missed in paperwork.

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

Next, we have also from the Fire Department, from Legacy Fire two late invoices. One is dated 1/1/26, for $159.80. And another one dated 1/1/26, amount of $2,845.67. The total is $3,005.47. Explanation: Not enough money remaining in previous PO blanket.

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

Next we come to late invoice for Public Works, this is from Cintas. They have two late invoices. One is dated 12/23/25, for $109.79. And one dated 12/3/25, in the amount of $514.78. The total is for $624.57. The explanation: Invoices were not provided to our department until March 16, 2026.

Any comments on this one? (None)

Next we have Hasse Construction from the Engineering Department. The date is 4/30/25. The amount is $158,869.00. Explanation: Invoice was received late because DLZ Engineering did not submit the invoice to be paid until INDOT approved the release of retainage. Services have been rendered and invoice should be processed.

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

The final late invoice from Northwest Indiana Law Enforcement Academy from the Police Department. It's one late invoice dated 12/1/25, amount of $8,300.00. Explanation: Please excuse this late invoice. It was e-mailed to the wrong division and it was not forwarded to the Service Division in a timely manner. Funds are available to pay this invoice within the ECPD Education account.

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the six aforementioned outstanding late invoices.

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MS. GUZMAN: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we come to Latin Media, donation check. This is from the Police Department.
"The East Chicago Police Department has received a donation of $600.00 from Latin Media. These funds will be deposited into the Police Department's community outreach fund (901001-ADWOY) to be used for further community based initiatives. Thank you for your consideration."
The check amount is $600.00. Any questions or comments on this donation? (None)
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the $600.00 to the ECPD from Latin Media.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have from the Police Department, from I-Touch Biometrics, software maintenance agreement.
"The East Chicago Police Department requests the approval of the attached maintenance agreement as mandated by the State of Indiana. The Accurate ID Software works in conjunction with the AFIS (Automated Fingerprint Identification System) equipment, located in our Detention Area, which collects/stores/transmits prisoner fingerprint information into a state and federal data base."
Subscription fee is $1,980.00 for the year.
I did talk with the Police Department and they have been using this firm for several years now. Any questions or comments on this one? (None)
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion accepting I-Touch Biometrics proposal with our ECPD.

MS. GUZMAN: Second.

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

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have from ServiScape, LLC, this is their holiday lighting proposal for Special Events. This is actually broken down. There's $6,000.00 for new supplies, wiring and stuff. The service fee is $85,000.00, which comes to $91,064.00. We have been doing this for several years now.
MS. GUZMAN: They do a great job.
MR. GOMEZ: Every park and pavilion in the City. It's quite a show. They do have some proprietary sheets because we have been using them for so long. It comes out of the CEDIT contract account.
Any questions or comments? (None)
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving ServiScape's proposal for once again the holiday lights for the entire City.
MR. RIVERA: Second.
MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have from Service Sanitation, this is the 2026 season rates with Special Events. It was included on the rates. I did call Special Events, Natalie Adams, for a not-to-exceed. She sent an e-mail where she was giving us the total cost for the port-a-potties for different events last year when they used them, it was $18,665.00. She is asking for this year to make the not-to-exceed $22,000.00.
Any comments or questions? (None)
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Service Sanitation's 2026 season rates and the amount of the not-to-exceed of $22,000.00.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have donation checks. First one is from Powers Health, actually St. Catherine's Hospital. They have donated $10,000.00. We did get a Special Events donation sheet, sponsorship form. If you donate so much, there is different things you are

eligible for within the City. So Powers Health donated $10,000.00. We do have a letter from Powers Health to Director Natalie Adams, Special Events.

"Powers Health is pleased to be able to provide a Silver Level Sponsorship of $10,000.00. The check for $10,000.00 is enclosed as well as 2026 Sponsorship Form. The management at Powers Health believes it is important to participate in the events with a sponsorship." That's signed by the President and Chief Executive Officer with Community Foundation of Northwest Indiana.

Any questions or comments on this donation? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Powers Health donation check.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have a donation check from Korellis Systems Control for $1,500.00. They did not send a letter, but again, our thanks to them. Once again they have attached the 2026 Special Events Sponsorship Form.

Any questions or comments on this donation from Korellis? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion accepting Korellis Systems donation on behalf of Special Events.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have Safety Kleen, a donation check of $10,000.00. We have a copy of the check and we have no letter from them. They have our thanks once again.

Any questions or comments on Safety Kleen's donation? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion accepting Safety Kleen's donation of $10,000.00.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

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MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Final donation check is from Sims Metal. They have a check for $5,000.00.
Any questions or comments on this donation check? (None)
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion accepting the donation check of $5,000.00 from Sims Metal for Special Events.
MR. RIVERA: Second.
MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
I did call Special Events and informed them of the Sims Check. I know the check was written in 2026, but there is an expiration date. So they better cash this check right after we approve it. And the previous check also has an expiration of time also, and actually that was given to them October of 2025. They need to watch these dates.
Next we have Harbor Group, Asbestos Project Management. This is from the Building Department, James Portalatin, asbestos project management for 2026. The cost of each building, 4 units and under, $650.00 per building and above 4 units will be determined depending on the size of the building. There is a not-to-exceed of $10,000.00 for this service. This is from the Building Department and they are submitting this proposal and basically says the same thing for to the funds.
Any questions or comments? (None)
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion to approve Harbor Group, Asbestos Project Management, not-to-exceed of $10,000.00 for the Building Department.
MR. RIVERA: Second.
MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next is for Safe Environmental, Asbestos Abatement for 5013 Alexander, the garage only. This is from the Building Department, and this proposal is for the removal of all identified ACM. And once

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again they have a total for the garage at a cost of $1,350.00.
Any questions or comments on this proposal? (None)
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Safe Environmental's proposal for asbestos abatement for 5013 Alexander.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have from M & O Environmental, Asbestos Abatement for 4909 White Oak, garage only. The same proposal as the previous company for removal of identified ACM at 4909 White Oak. And the amount is $6,000.00.
Any questions or comments on this proposal? (None)
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving M & O Environmental, Asbestos Abatement proposal with our Building Department for 4909 White Oak.
MR. RIVERA: Second.
MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have two Notices to Proceed. First one from Actin, at 1102 East Columbus Drive, East Chicago, demolition of 3927 Carey. Contract was approved August 14, 2025.
Is there any questions or comments on this Notice to Proceed? (None)
The next Notice to Proceed is for JM Industrial. This is for 3810 Parrish Avenue, garage only. The contract was approved November 13, 2025.
Any questions or comments on this one? (None)
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the two Notices to Proceed for Actin and JM Industrial in regards to 3927 Carey and 3810 Parrish with the Building Department.
MR. RIVERA: Second.

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MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have from the IT Department, Xerox IT Savvy, time and material. We have a letter from Kevin Klocek, our Systems Administrator.
"Description: These ten hours form T & M service are to be used as needed for possible services not included within the Exchange to Office mitigation. Any hours used are to be billed upon completion of the service performed."
Just for the record, the services that they are going to provide is for the next item. We have them reversed. The other one -- and we'll make a motion to approve both.
The one, the next one is also from Xerox IT, Savvy, Office 365 Software from IT. This, as reported by our IT Director, this is required. This proposal is necessary to acquire Office 365 software. The amount of this is $80,994.88. So the previous one is service also since, as you know, we are converting to the system.
Any questions or comments on this proposal? (None)
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the two proposals from Xerox IT, Savvy. One is for time and material and the other one for the actual Office 365 software.
MR. RIVERA: Second.
MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have from Braman Insurance a proposal, this is our annual coverage for our buildings in the City. This is for building and contents. Last year our broker checked because the rate had increased and he checked this year. He checked with 15 different companies and he said they were seeing an issue arising where the companies are either raising their cost untimely or not insuring at all. He sees this problem occurring, and as we mentioned it's showing in here. The issue, last year our policy was $280,000.00. The most it was. This year is $408,884.00. And so now to get a lower rate we had to go with four different companies. Not one company will insure the entire thing. He had to broker four different companies. So

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there is four different companies covering different sections of our buildings. The premium coverage, Navigators Property is $124,537.50. Spectrum Palm Property is $186,806.25. Intact Property is $77,643.75. And then Travelers Equipment Breakdown is $19,894.00. So the total premium is $408,881.50.

This presentation was given to myself, the Deputy Controller, and the Mayor, and we agreed to the total and we would go with this. We discussed this with the insurance fund and possibly we have another option to lower the premium with a bigger deductible. So we are going to work with it. We are actually going to be using them more because of their rates.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposal? (None)

He did include a list of all our buildings, the buildings' contents, and the cost. Like the building, the coverage, the cost to replace everything.

Any questions or comments on this proposal? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Braman Insurance proposal for insurance coverage.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we come to Martinez Construction. This is the animal control parking lot and drive-up. The explanation we have -- what happened, this project Engineering oversees. They provide quotes on the parking lot and driveway. The Health Department will cover $10,000.00 and Engineering will cover the rest. The cost is $18,500.00. Martinez Construction is the lowest bid for $28,500.00. So today we are approving Engineering to pay the $18,500.00. The Health Department has already petitioned a similar motion for their $10,000.00.

Any questions or comments on this proposal for animal control parking lot and driveway? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Martinez Construction's proposal for the animal control parking lot and driveway.

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MR. RIVERA: Second.
MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we come to right-of-way applications. We have permit applications 26-05371 through 26-05385, 14 Board of Works permit applications.
Any questions on these applications? (None)
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the aforementioned permit applications.
MR. RIVERA: Second.
MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
That concludes our New Business. Once again we have two items brought to us at the last moment, and they are from HR. So we have got two consulting agreements. The description HR gave us, they are with Terrence Velligan and Rosalind Mitchell.
The first one is effective March 26, 2026, through its Board of Public Safety with Terrence N. Velligan. The scope of services is pretty general. Consultant shall perform management services with respect to project based scope of work/project assignment proposal attached hereto and incorporated herein.
The next item is the reimbursement of $25.00 per hour, not-to-exceed of $36,400.00.
I did talk to HR. This came to us pretty late and I had some questions on this one, especially on this one as it's titled, Project Manager - Planning and Economic Development, and Department of Engineering, report to the Director of Planning and Economic Development. So when I spoke to them they said they would change that. But she also informed me that there might be changes to the salary. So I said, if you are going to make changes, you are going to have to amend it. They wanted it passed today. So it was a time issue.
I did talk to our Chief of Staff and she did ask if Miss Brown was on this one. So she asked if it had been reviewed by the Law Department, whether this process was okay. I did send an e-mail to Attorney Allegretti, for him to review it also. Miss Brown

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informed me that it had been sent to our Law Department first. I'm just giving you a heads up in case.

MS. LEVINSON: It's subject to your approval.

MR. GOMEZ: I was asking about the position and he called me and said they were consulting. And that's for this one, on the contract for Velligan. I'd like to make a motion approving subject to funding and also approval from the Law Department, and if there are any changes.

So I'd like to make a motion with those conditions.

MS. GUZMAN: If we have questions on the project, the scope of work, project assignment, proposals, drafts; where do we go?

MR. GOMEZ: So I did ask, and she said that that's to review.

MS. GUZMAN: So subject to final approval.

MR. GOMEZ: I'm hoping the Law Department will be able to go through this and give us direction. It looks fairly general.

MS. LEVINSON: I would add on there is a termination clause in Section 5, Term and Termination. So this can be terminated by either party, with or without cause upon one day prior written notice to the other, provided that if Consultant terminates this Agreement, Consultant shall, in accordance with the terms and conditions hereof, nevertheless wind up in an orderly fashion assignment for the City which Consultant began prior to the date of notice of termination. So at one day's notice they can also terminate the contract.

MR. GOMEZ: I'd like to make a motion to approve the contracts with Terrence Velligan and Rosalind Mitchell and Planning & Economic Development, condition on review by the Law Department, getting input on funding, and whether the contracts were approved by the Consultants. The termination clause must also be dated.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

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MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
The last item is from Northwest Industrial Specialists submitted by Engineering for regulatory signs. The hardware goes with the posts for installation of all regulatory signs at a cost of $5,511.00. Sole proprietorship was included.
Any questions on this one? (None)
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Northwest Industrial Specialists proposal for posts for installation of regulatory signs.

MS. GUZMAN: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
That concludes all items on the agenda for tonight. Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 9th, at 4:30 p.m.
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 26, 2026
Approved and Signed March 26, 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 30th day of March, 2026.



Peggy S. LaLonde

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