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, June 11, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.

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

Staff Present: Olga Cosme, Recording Secretary
Shana D. Levinson, Legal Counsel
Jaylan Johnson, Vehicle Maintenance

Call to Order: 4:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Val Gomez
Frank Rivera

MR. GOMEZ: Good afternoon everyone. I'd like to call to order the regular meeting of the Board of Public Works for June 11th, 2026. We do have a quorum.

I'd like to make a motion to approve the minutes from the May 28th, 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 Bloomington Ford, purchase of (7) squad cars for ECPD from Public Works. We do have Jaylan Johnson, East Chicago Vehicle Maintenance Manager, in the audience if anybody has any questions. In Re: Purchase of (7) squad cars for East Chicago Police Department.

"Mr. President, attached you will find a proposal for (7) 2026 Ford Interceptor Utility SUVs that we ask approval to purchase

for the Police Department. These new vehicles will be used for the Patrol Division to further ensure proper maintenance and upkeep for the Police Department vehicle fleet. With obtained approval fro the Mayor's Office, we ask for the quote from Community Ford, Mr. Sam Roberts, in the amount of $331,185.75 to be approved as East Chicago Police Department obtains its squad cars from this dealer."

And like I said, this is from Jaylan Johnson, Vehicle Maintenance Manager. Does anybody have any questions on these proposals or questions of Mr. Johnson?

MR. RIVERA: No.

MR. GOMEZ: There being no further questions or comments, I'd like make a motion approving the purchase of (7) squad cars for the ECPD from Bloomington Ford -- where is that located?

MR. JOHNSON: Actually in Bloomington. They actually have two different names, Bloomington Ford, also known as Community Ford. Bloomington Ford is under Community Ford's umbrella for their location.

MR. GOMEZ: Okay. Motion to approve the purchase of (7) vehicles for the ECPD, in the amount of $331,185.75.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have another request related to the ECPD vehicles from Vehicle Maintenance Manager, Jaylan Johnson. This references emergency lighting and equipment for the vehicles from Chicago Communication.

"Mr. President, attached you will find a quote for all equipment needed for the (7) 2026 Ford Interceptor Utility SUVs for the Police Department. Chicago Communications has long been a long time partner for repairs, lighting, and equipment installs for East Chicago. An OEM form hass also been provided as this vendor has the quickest turnaround time for completing

install of the equipment. They are also the only vendor in our area that specifically outfits law enforcement vehicles. I ask for approval of the quote in the amount of $255,431.89 to be approved."

And he has attached the sole proprietary form and all the documentation.

Any questions or comments on this purchase?

MR. RIVERA: No.

MR. GOMEZ: There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Chicago Communications proposal for ECPD and Public Works in relation to the equipment installed for lighting and equipment to the ECPD vehicles.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

MR. GOMEZ: Next we come to rate schedules for Public Works. We have three rate schedules for Public Works. First one is from Integrated Control Technologies, LLC, not-to-exceed of $20,000 for Public Works and other departments. They list their regular rate, premium rates, holiday rates, and the not-to-exceed $20,000 for Public Works and other departments is also not-to-exceed of $20,000. I believe this is a company that has served Public Works for several years also.

Any questions or comments?

MR. RIVERA: No.

MR. GOMEZ: There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Integrated Control Technologies rate schedule.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next rate schedule is from Arctic Engineering. They have the rates for HVAC and their labor rates, straight time, overtime, and double time. There's a not-to-exceed for Public Works of $30,000 and other departments $30,000. This company also has been serving the City for several years.

Any questions or comments on this one?

MR. RIVERA: No.

MR. GOMEZ: There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Arctic Engineering's rate schedule for 2026.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Final one for Public Works rate schedules is Austgen Electric. They have rates for electrician services, plus control of the equipment and rates. Their not-to-exceed for Public Works is $50,000 and not-to-exceed with other departments is also $50,000. We also have rates for in-service work. This is also a company that's been with us for several years.

Any questions or comments on this rate schedule?

MR. RIVERA: No.

MR. GOMEZ: There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Austgen Electric, their electric rates for 2026, with a not-to-exceed of $50,000 for Public Works and other departments.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we come to Devine Landscaping. This is for Unity Center and Heritage Hall from Public Works. They are adding additional landscaping to the Unity Center and Heritage Hall. The cost is $7,665.00.

I did speak with Jaylan Robinson and he said he was going to question the Mayor's Office on

this. This includes the labor rates, the planting of flowers and mulch.

Any questions or comments on this proposal?

MR. RIVERA: No.

MR. GOMEZ: There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Devine Landscaping proposal for additional landscaping work.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we come to a proposal from Mimecast. This is from IT. It's for e-mail archiving. We do have a letter from Kevin Klocek, our Systems Administrator for the IT Department.

"Mimecast archiving: This agreement for the services of Mimecast Office 365 E-mail Archiving. Since we are moving our mail system to 0365 our current archiving application, GFI Archiver, does not support Office 365 mail archiving. Therefore, we are going to use the services of Mimecast, which supports 0365 Archiving. I am requesting approval for the prorated six-month hosting and support cost of $4,218.00. The six months prorate is because that is when our other Mimecast agreement expires for other services we have implemented with Mimecast. Once we approach, expiration, our renewals with Mimecast will include the full year cost of Archiving. We will also be eliminating the annual support and licensing cost of GFI Archiver."

Also attached to the proposal is the support customer quote for $4,394.08. I imagine we are approving that support. I'm going to make a motion for the higher amount, and if it turns out to be lower, we can just not spend that amount.

Any questions or comments?

MR. RIVERA: No.

MR. GOMEZ: There being no further

questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion to approve the proposal from Mimecast in the amount of $4,394.08.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have outstanding invoices. We only have one from Human Resources. It's from Better NOI Employee Reports and we have four late invoices. These are dated 1/31/26, 2/28/26, 3/31/26, and 4/30/26, for a total of $588.00.
Explanation: Following invoices are past due, due to the company not updating service rate schedule for 2026.
Any questions or comments on these outstanding invoices?

MR. RIVERA: No.

MR. GOMEZ: There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion to approve payment to Better NOI in relation to each invoice with HR.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have a proposal from the Building Department with JM Industrial Services. This is cost of living increase for 4814 Olcott. They are requesting approval of the proposal for JM Industrial's service increase for demo at 4814 Olcott. Total amount of $6,000.00.
Just for the record, as you recall several meetings we have had several of these and the reason we are approving these is because the demolition contracts were approved several years ago, but because of giving extensive time to repair and giving people time, at some point several years have passed, and the difference in cost and inflation and other things have caused for the increase in their estimate. So that's why we are approving it.
Any other questions or comments?

MR. RIVERA: No.

MR. GOMEZ: There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving JM Industrial Services proposal for 4814 Olcott for increase due to increased cost.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have supplemental engineering services and this is for Robinson Engineering. It's for the wall extension and the welcome sign electrical connection at 145th Street.
The scope of services states create a staking plan and exhibit, coordination with NIPSCO on Prairie Crossings lighting service and Homerlee welcome to East Chicago lighted sign service, and request a quote from contractor and respond to RFI from contractor for welcome sign lighting and site visit. REL has completed the work described above for a lump sum of $1,593.75.
Any questions or comments on this?

MR. RIVERA: No.

MR. GOMEZ: There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Robinson's proposal for supplemental engineering services.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have a request from Engineering, this is for Miranda's Concrete, patching at various locations in East Chicago. We have 12 locations. We have 5601 -- that should be Reading Avenue, not Rading -- that's for landscaping; 148th and Drummond Street, curb and gutter; 5517 White Oak fixing grass; 4218 Carey, service walk; 4212, 4206, 4204, 4209, 4223, 4225 Carey all service walk, 4200-block of Carey -- we have several for the 4200 block of Carey, sidewalk. And the last one is 143rd Street and Euclid Avenue, sidewalk.

Any questions or comments on this proposal for patching?

MR. RIVERA: No.

MR. GOMEZ: There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Miranda's Concrete proposals for patching, landscaping, and concrete throughout the City.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we come to Board of Works permit applications. We have right-of-way applications number 26-05445 to 26-05483, for total of 38 applications.

Are there any questions or comments on the applications?

MR. RIVERA: No.

MR. GOMEZ: There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the aforementioned 38 right-of-way permit applications.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

This concludes our New Business. We have one item on Other Business. This is Corrective Action for Debarment and Suspension. Just for the record, in the past we passed a policy for Debarment and Suspension on August 22nd, 2024, all City Boards were instructed to follow through with similar resolutions or actions to implement the policy city wide.

Unfortunately what happened, even though we passed the policy, an effective system of internal controls was not implemented to ensure compliance, it was more of a self-regulating process, which resulted in only one person in one city department following through on verifications. They saw that we were lacking in the Controller's Office. So after speaking with the head auditor, we came up with how we

can install for further control and suggested we have this corrective action form that we included. We are going to put that in the record. And I think Olga sent that to everybody, everybody has that. I don't know if everybody saw it.

So what came about, what we actually have is the Board of Accounts action claim. In order to establish, maintain, and ensure compliance of the City's policy, the City of East Chicago, Board of Public Works will implement the following internal controls for all City Departments and Boards.

Number 1: We require a certification form regarding Suspension and Disbarment to be part of all pre-bid packets and contracts before approval. In this one we have presented and passed on May 28, 2026 Board of Works meeting, our last meeting. So we have the form, so we already have that.

Number 2: Correspondence for East Chicago Board of Public Works to all City Board Presidents and Secretaries to enter into their record at next meeting previous passed Suspension and Debarment policy and new form, with the instructions to include in all future related proposals, contracts, will be introduced, discussed and implemented at June 11, 2026, Board of Works meeting.

Number 3: Correspondence from East Chicago Board of Works to all City Board Attorneys to ensure their reviews of pre-bid documents, proposals, contracts brought before their Boards include Suspension and Debarment requirements. And this also has been approved at our meeting today.

The final one: Correspondence from East Chicago Board of Public Works to City Law Department to ensure all proposals/contracts, sent to City Boards shall include all related Suspension and Debarment requirements. This is to be approved today also.

So it's putting them on notice, saying we have eyes -- we have more eyes on this. So by next audit, hopefully it won't be a problem. At least it gives somebody else eyes, to my understanding.

And as part of this we had to put this anticipated complete date, and we have June 2026, new requirement, new forms and instructive correspondence to City Boards, secretaries, attorneys, and Law Department, following this Board of Works meeting June 11th.

So, I think all we have to do is formulate a letter to send to these different groups

and we can do that. I told them we would have it done by the end of June. Once we send the letters, I will do a follow-up call to each department and talk to the Board secretaries. Trying to get to the Board Presidents is a little more different, so I put it on the secretaries and the Board attorneys. Okay. And these minutes will be included in our Corrective Action Plan.

Any questions or comments on this Corrective Action Plan?

MR. RIVERA: No.

MR. GOMEZ: There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion accepting the Corrective Action Debarment and Suspension in order to increase our internal control.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Our next regular meeting will be Thursday, June 25th, at -- I think we have to change the time because the Building Department informed us they will be opening bids at 4:00 o'clock. We can start at 4:00 or a little bit earlier. Last time we did bids we started the meeting and then at 4:00 o'clock we did the bids. If everybody is here earlier, we'll start earlier.

MS. LEVINSON: I might have difficulty on that day. I'm coming from a conference in Indianapolis and I was thinking it was going to be kind of tight for 4:30, but I'll still do my best to make it up here. I don't know what the last session of that day is. I'm hoping to get in as much as I can.

MR. GOMEZ: Is the Building Department going to open the bids?

MS. COSME: Sometimes they open the bids early and then they just come in at the meeting to make their recommendation.

MR. GOMEZ: There's a company that's working with James on this, I think we'll be okay. We are going to have the Building Department review and

overlook the bids by the time the bid package is done, so take your time and be safe.

MS. LEVINSON: Okay, thank you.

MR. GOMEZ: Our secretary won't be here either.

MS. COSME: They will be here by noon on Friday, so I can get it out by Friday.

MR. GOMEZ: So we'll make that on time. That concludes our meeting 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
June 11, 2026
Approved and Signed June 11, 2026.

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Val Gomez, President

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Winna Guzman, Vice President

_____
Frank Rivera, member

_____
Olga Cosme, Secretary

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 15th day of June, 2026.

Peggy S. LaLonde

Peggy S. LaLonde
Notary Public Seal State of Indiana
Porter County
Commission Number NP0710216
My Commission Expires 2/6/2034