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, July 9, 2026, at 4:15 p.m.

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

Staff Present: Olga Cosme, Secretary
Shana D. Levinson, Legal Counsel

Call to Order: 4:15 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 July 9th, 2026. We do have a quorum.

I'd like to make a motion to approve the minutes from the June 25th, 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 the bid opening for construction. We'll open those at 4:30 per the instructions on the bid package. So we'll move on to New Business till 4:30.

The first item under New Business is Fund Conveyance Agreement with Bus Transit. This is an annual agreement that Bus Transit gets for funding.

"This Agreement is made and entered into between the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, hereinafter referred to at the Commission, and East Chicago Transit, hereinafter referred to as the Operator.

The purposes of the Agreement is to set forth the terms and conditions under which the Commission will convey to the Operator, 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-2024-014 from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration (CFDA 20.507, Federal Transit Formula Grants), hereinafter referred to as the FTA, under the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 5307, et seq, the Federal Transit Act as amended.

The Operator agrees 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 Master 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 by any potential claims and litigation against the federal government. The Operator must also require all third-party participants to be included in this process.

The maximum amount of the Section 5307 Federal Preventative Maintenance Funds to be conveyed by the Commission to the Operator through this Agreement is $200,000.00. The maximum amounts of the Section 5307 federal grant proceeds payable to the Operator are subject to change only if the Grant Agreement is amended to reflect an increase in the amount of proceeds available to the Operator, or if this Agreement is terminated. The grant was awarded to the Commission on September 11, 2024. The total amount of federal Preventive Maintenance Funds that are obligated to the Operator including the current obligation is $200,000.00. INDOT on behalf of FHWA, approved NIRPC's indirect rate on February 18, 2025.

The period of performance for which the Section 5307 Funds is extended is from January 1, 2026, to March 31, 2029."

And as I mentioned before this is an annual grant which our public transit gets from NIRPC.

Are there any questions or comments on this Agreement?

MR. RIVERA: No.

MR. GOMEZ: There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the Funds Conveyance Agreement to Bus Transit.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we move on to Kramer Tree Services. This proposal is from Kramer Tree Services 2026 rate schedule and the paperwork. We have it listed as not-to-exceed for Public Works and other departments for $300,000.00. That has been changed to not-to-exceed of $50,000.00 for Public Works and $50,000.00 for other departments. We have included all their rate schedules for crew and equipment.

Is there any questions or comments?

MR. RIVERA: No.

MR. GOMEZ: There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion accepting Kramer Trees rate schedule for 2026.

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 for Human Resources, ceiling tiles. It's to paint and change out ceiling tiles in Human Resources. Their amount is $13,250.00. They do have a second quote with Nu Kreation at $14,500.00. They are going with the less, the lower cost and most responsive, which is Martinez Construction.

Any questions or comments on this proposal?

MR. RIVERA: No.

MR. GOMEZ: There being no further comments or questions, I'd like to make a motion accepting Martinez Construction project for Human Resources from Public Works.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have from Falcon Security Services, this is from the Fire Department. It's a proposal to amend their previous contract. We previously passed their contract on January 22, 2026, which had a $10,000.00 not-to-exceed. This proposal is amending that contract. We do have a letter from the Fire Department.

> "We, Falcon Protection and Security Services and the East Chicago Fire Department at 3901 Indianapolis Boulevard, East Chicago, Indiana 46312, agree to amend the existing contract to include provisions for emergency response situations. In the event of unforeseen circumstances requiring the services of Falcon Protection, the hourly rate for officers on scene will be increased to time and a half, the equivalent to the holiday pay rate of $40.50 per hour per officers."

And this is came about because we are getting increasing temperature variances over 100 degrees and there is a need for more people where we can't get as much time for preparation.
Are there any other questions or comments on this proposal?

MR. RIVERA: No.

MR. GOMEZ: There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make motion approving Falcon Security Services proposal for emergency services with the Fire Department.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have another proposal for the Fire Department. This is from ESO. This is a

company that provides their IFC code sets for fire incidents and International Building Code. Each one has 5,000 units for fire incidents and their paperwork for them that they can research. The cost for this is total due $1,421.40 and that's the one check.

Any questions or comments on this proposal from ESO?

MR. RIVERA: No questions or comments.

MR. GOMEZ: There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving ESO's proposal for the fire prevention bill.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have a proposal from Economy Signs also from the Fire Department. This is to open a purchase order to remove and reinstall existing sign at Central Station. The amount is $5,720.00. There were two lines that were crossed out, where they were asking for 50 percent deposit to start and then the balance would be due prior to the installation. The State of Indiana does not allow that.

I did talk to the Fire Department, and they did say they had spoken to them, and it was also an issue of 1.5 percent interest charged per month after 30 days and our purchasing policy is for 60 days. So they said they had spoken to them about it before, but they will speak to them again, and we are going to cross that out.

Any questions or comments?

MR. RIVERA: No.

MR. GOMEZ: There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Economy Signs company proposal.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

We are a few minutes away from 4:30. We have outstanding invoices. We have four. First one

is from the Fire Department from ESO Solutions, late invoice dated 3/30/26, in the amount of $1,464.04. Explanation: Invoice was lost in paperwork.

Next one from Cender Dalton Municipal Advisors, late invoice dated 2/3/26, for $150.00. Explanation: Invoice was sent to Public Works and was never give to our office.

Any questions on this or the previous one?

MR. RIVERA: No.

MR. GOMEZ: The third one is from the Engineering Department for Comcate. Invoice is dated 4/16/26, amount of $6,626.78. Explanation: Invoice was sent to three employees that are no longer with the department. Services have been rendered and the invoice should be processed.

Any questions on this one?

MR. RIVERA: No.

MR. GOMEZ: The last one is for Engineering Department from Fissinger & Associates, dated 4/21/26, amount of $257.00. Explanation: The invoice was received late. Services have been rendered and invoice should be processed.

Any questions on this one?

MR. RIVERA: No.

MR. GOMES: There being no further questions or comments on the four aforementioned late invoices, like to make a motion to approve these four late invoices.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

I believe we are at 4:30. We are going to halt our new business and go to the bid opening for Sophia Construction and we have the bids. We have one. We have one bid, it was received from Hasse Construction, 10 Lincoln Avenue, Calumet City, Illinois 60409.

Just for the record, how many companies?

MS. COSME: We advertised this project.

MS. LEVINSON: I think there might be another bid downstairs with Justin. We need to go grab it because there was one more.

(Security brought in one more bid.)

He can attest to the fact it was provided prior to cutoff time.

MR. GOMEZ: For the record we have two bids. The first one, total bid, base bid is $1,266,700.00.

MS. LEVINSON: I'm sorry, what company was that from again?

MR. GOMEZ: This was Hasse Construction, Calumet City, Illinois.

MS. LEVINSON: Thank you.

MR. GOMEZ: The form should be the same. Total amount is $1,266,700.00. That was Hasse Construction. Once again, this is for the Sophia Reconstruction Project.

The second bid is from Rieth-Riley Construction Company, 7500 West 5th Avenue, Gary Indiana. And their bid for the Sophia Reconstruction Project is, total base bid for A,B, and C, $1,436,736.25.

Is the Engineering Department -- they are going to look over the paperwork and make sure everything is right, and come back with your recommendation next meeting.

MR. ALHASHEM: Yes.

MR. GOMEZ: Okay. That concludes our bid opening for today. Once again, there were only two bids received, Rieth-Riley and Hasse. We are going to go back to New Business. We approved the outstanding invoices.

The next item is an MOU, Memorandum of Understanding, between the School City of East Chicago and the City of East Chicago. This is an annual agreement to provide buses and drivers and aides for the City's Fusic event.

The main points are for the City to provide buses for this occasion. The first one would

be, provide four air-conditioned school buses, at least two of which are ADA compliant and accessible by disabled patrons between the hours of 3:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m., on July 31, 2026.

The second section is for six air-conditioned buses, at least three of which are ADA compliant and accessible to disabled patrons between the hours of 3:30 and 11:30, on August 1st, 2026.

And the last one is also six air-conditioned school buses of which three once again are ADA compliant and accessible by disabled patrons between the hours of 3:30 and 11:00 p.m., on August 2nd. This is for Fusic Fest.

"As for compensating the School System. The City will pay each school bus driver for the services at rate of $34.14 per hour. Any time working a shift which exceeds 8 hours, should be paid at one and one half times the regular hourly rate.

The City shall pay each school bus driver's aide (additional personnel assigned to each bus for purposes including, but not limited to, providing assistance to disabled patrons) for services at the rate of $24.83. Any time worked in a shift which exceeds 8 hours, shall be paid at one and one half times the regular hourly rate.

The City shall also permit fueling of each school bus during the event, and refueling of each school bus after the event concludes, at the City's fuel station and at the City's cost.

The City shall provide one security officer, who will be assigned to provide security at the School City Bus Barn when the buses are returned following the end of services on each day of the event."

Those are the main points of the agreement. Any questions or comments on this School City MOU with the City?

MR. RIVERA: None at all.

MR. GOMEZ: There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the MOU between the School City of East Chicago and the City of East Chicago.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have a proposal from R & D. This is for the Drainage Ditch Project on 152nd Street. Engineering is going with R & D's proposal of total amount of $47,500.00. Second quote was from Hasse Construction in the amount of $62,000.00. So they are going with the lowest, most responsive bid of $47,500.00. The job is for the 152nd Drainage Ditch Project.

Any questions or comments on this proposal?

MR. RIVERA: No questions.

MR. GOMEZ: There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion to approve R & D's proposal for the Drainage Ditch Project from Engineering.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have Short Elliott Hendrickson. This is for engineering services for the CSX crossing project. The agreement effective -- they want us to back date this agreement for today's date?

MS. COSME: For today's date.

MR. GOMEZ: We'll insert 9th of July, 2026. This Agreement is effective as of July 9, 2926, between City of East Chicago and Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc.

"Project Understanding: The City of East Chicago has been in the process of pursuing quiet zones along the CSX Railroad line stretching from Baring Avenue to Euclid Avenue in the Crossing Map included in Appendix A. They have conducted feasibility studies to examine each crossing, held onsite diagnostic meetings to discuss potential upgrades, submitted Notice of Intent to CSX, and compiled bidding documents to concrete and signage work. In a letter to the City dated September 5, 2026 CSX requested the City to pay for equipment upgrades at each

crossing, noting that these upgrades were needed to establish the Quiet Zone. In a letter to CSX dated April April 20, 2026, the City expressed an interest in moving forward with the implementation of the Quiet Zone. The next steps in continuing the pursuit of these quiet zones are to coordinate with CSX on design/construction of the improvements as suggested by FRA and documented in the diagnotic meeting minutes, bid the project, construct the upgrades and submit the Notice of Establishment report.

Scope: SEH will complete the following tasks. 1. Design/Coordination; Task 2. Bidding process, Task 3. Construction Inspection Services; Task 4. Notice of Establishment (NOE) Report.

Develop an NOE report conforming to the Federal Rail Administration requirements.

For these tasks, Task 1 is $15,500.00; Task 2 is $7,500.00; Task 3 is $15,500.00; Task 4 is $7,000.00. So the total is not-to-exceed of $45,500.00."

Are there any questions or comments on SEH's proposal?

MR. RIVERA: No, no questions.

MR. GOMEZ: There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving SEH's proposal for Quiet Zones with Engineering.

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 19 Board of Public Works permit applications, number 26-05495 through 26-05515.

Any questions or comments on these Board of Works permit applications?

MR. RIVERA: No, none.

MR. GOMEZ: There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the aforementioned 19 Board of 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. Under Other Business we have two proposals that came late in the day requested by the City that we need to address.

The first one is a proposal from A & Z Engineering from Engineering providing professional engineering services for proposed sanitary sewer relocation along the east side of Elm, between Franklin and 400 feet south of Franklin Street, in East Chicago, Indiana.

> "A & Z would provide engineering services of qualified professional engineers, surveyors, and designers to complete this scope of work. Anticipate scope of work in includes the following tasks. A. Sanitary Sewer Design. A & Z will provide the set of plans by professional licensed engineer, which includes the following: Title sheet, Index sheet, and Profile Sheet, and miscellaneous construction details. For the compensation for the sewer design is $4,995.00, for professional engineering services total."

Any questions or comments on this proposal for A & Z Engineering?

MR. RIVERA: I have a concern. If you recall, I think two weeks ago, unfortunately Mr. Bennett passed away, when we have the Prairie Crossing as part of the TIF funds for that project, that's here at Elm Street, so we need to look for some other funding to support this.

MR. GOMEZ: That was Prairie Crossing?

MR. RIVERA: Yes.

MR. GOMEZ: I remember that.

MR. RIVERA: I called Karl Cender and he said that's not part of the TIF.

MR. GOMEZ: The TIF District north of Columbus Drive is not including Prairie Crossing, that's what happened. I know Mr. Terry Velligan was working on the exact amount.

MR. RIVERA: Right. He waived it and I specifically let him know that we need to look for funding.

MR. GOMEZ: We can pass it subject to funding.

MR. RIVERA: I would agree with that.

MS. COSME: The funding will be coming out of engineering services.

MR. GOMEZ: So they have the funding.

MR. RIVERA: Okay, then we are good to go.

MR. GOMEZ: So I'd like to make a motion to approve the proposal from A & Z, which was subject to funding, but now we know it's from the Engineering Department, and the amount is $4,995.00.
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 A & Z?

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have from Miranda. This is a proposal for project of installing three speed bumps. Description of Work: Speed humps on Baring Avenue. One in the amount of $5,500.00 between Columbus Drive and 142nd Street, Baring Avenue between Carroll Street and Shell Street, two speed humps at the cost of $11,000.00. Total cost of $16,500.00.
There is a second quote from Milestone Contractors for $21,450.00. So the lowest one is the one from Miranda at $16,500.00.
Are there any questions or comments on this proposal?

MR. RIVERA: No questions or comments.

MR. GOMEZ: There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Miranda's proposal for speed bumps, at a cost of $16,500.00.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
That concludes the New Business and Other Business. Our next regular scheduled meeting will be July 23, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.
That concludes all items for tonight's meeting, 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
July 9, 2026
Approved and Signed July 9, 2026.

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Val Gomez, President

_____
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 20th day of July, 2026.

Peggy S. LaLonde

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