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, October 8, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.

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

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

Call to Order: 4:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Val Gomez
Frank Rivera
Winna Guzman

MR. GOMEZ: Good afternoon everyone. I'd like to call to order the regular meeting of the Board of Public Works for October 8th, 2026. We do have a quorum.

First item is approval of minutes of the regular meeting of Thursday, September 24th, 2026. I'd like to make a motion to approve as written.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Now, we have no correspondence, we'll move on to New Business.

First item on the agenda is the bid opening for the 2026 Phase 1 Board of Safety Demolition of Unsafe Structure.

MR. PORTALATIN: James Portalatin, Building Commission, East Chicago.
First one -- I have received two

sealed bids -- the first one is from JM Industrial Services, Incorporated. Property located at 1419 West 150th, $98,000.00; 3938 Catalpa, $18,200.00; 401 East Chicago Avenue, $58,000.00; 4010 Drummond, $26,600.00; 4116 Drummond, $22,400.00; 4208 Drummond, $18,200.00; 4228 Drummond, $18,200.00; 4918 Indianapolis Boulevard, $19,200.00; 3723 Ivy Street, $18,700.00; 4123 Ivy Street (garage only) $2,975.00.

409 Prospect Street $14,500.00, 411 Prospect, $14,500.00; 413 Prospect $14,500.00; 415 Prospect $14,500.00; for total of $58,000.00.

410 Spring, $24,000.00; 412 Spring, $24,000.00; 414 Spring, $24,000.00; for total of $72,000.00.

Total for all, for the complete entire bid is $430,475.00.

MR. GOMEZ: Can they bid separately for each property or --

MR. PORTALATIN: Yes. We can award these separately. The ones that you see boxed in, the 409, 411, 413, and 415 Prospect and then 410, 412, 414 Spring; those are going to be awarded as one to one contractor. So that's --

MR. GOMEZ: These are the ones that are boxed in, that's the total on those?

MR. PORTALATIN: Ends up being the total. I still wanted them to give me the price per line item because if I have to put a lien on a property, like 409 Prospect is owned by the City. We won't put a lien on ourself, but 411 is separate.

Next we have a sealed bid from Martinez Construction. They are located at 3924 Grand Boulevard. 1419 West 150th Street, $53,900.00; 3938 Catalpa, $14,990.00; 401 East Chicago Avenue, $9,990.00; 4010 Drummond, $14,600.00; 4116 Drummond, $14,900.00; 4208 Drummond, $17,250.00 4228 Drummond $17,990.00; 4918 Indianapolis Boulevard, $18,250.00; 3723 Ivy Street, $16,250.00; 4123 Ivy Street, $3,990.00.

409 Prospect $14,990.00; 411 Prospect, $14,990.00; 413 Prospect, $14,990.00; 415 Prospect, $14,990.00; for total of $59,960.00.

410 Spring, $14,990.00; 412 Spring Street, $14,990.00; 414 Spring, $14,990.00; for total of $44,970.00.

The total amount for all the

properties is $275,950.00.
I'll be making a recommendation at the following Board meeting.

MR. GOMEZ: Review all the paperwork to make sure it's proper?

MR. PORTALATIN: Yes.

MR. GOMEZ: Okay. So we'll see you at the next meeting with the recommendation.

MR. PORTALATIN: Thank you have much. Have a good evening.

MR. RIVERA: Could you have typed out all these numbers so we can receive a bid tally?

MS. LEVINSON: I have that.

MR. PORTALATIN: Thank you very much.

MR. GOMEZ: We'll continue on. Next item is Wellness On-site Event. It's for the Franciscan working well, On-Site Wellness Program. This is our annual program. I think we have been doing this for quite a bit of years now. I did request that HR send us additional information. The sheet they gave us just had the cost, so additional information, there are 250 participants. It's going to be a portal service where you can go open up your own account and gives instructions. It's a grand total of $12,000.00 and HR has a not-to-exceed of $13,000.00, with the additional cost.
Any questions or comments on this Wellness Program? (None)
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving East Chicago's Wellness Program for 2027, cost not-to-exceed of $13,000.00.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we come to Proper Pest Control. This is from Special Events. The proposal for Proper Pest Control, David Edmondson, is for the bug spraying

for Viva Fest, which was held several weeks ago. The amount is $600.00, and the event has already passed.

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Proper Pest Control spraying for Viva Fest.

MS. GUZMAN: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have also for Special Events, proposal to pay Oscar Tenorio for services provided for the Seniors on the Lake event. He provided the backdrop, photo op, and costumes, decorating at the event. The total cost is $450.00 for backdrop and $450.00 for the dress up fee, for total of $900.00.

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion to approve the payment to Oscar Tenorio for the Seniors on the Lake event.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have Sunbelt Rentals. This is for the Rhythm & Soul Fest. This is from Special Events. It's to pay Sunbelt Rentals for R & S Fest $1,375.79; pay rentals for Salsa Fest of $1,375.79 -- they overcharged us $815.99. I'm reading from the worksheet because the amount they had was $1,375.79 times two, equals $2,751.58. It's a little confusing because if you look at the paperwork, page 1 and 2, the cost for the events, one was $1,375.79 and the second one was for $2,171.78. That came to the $3,567.57, which then they had a credit memo for $815.99. So you need to subtract that. So to kind of figure out what the exact cost for each event was, we have to look at the invoice because they didn't match the worksheet. For the one I signed I actually attached a calculated page on. Olga has it on the one to present.

Any questions or comments on this? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the payment to Sunbelt Rentals for the R & S Festival and Salsa Fest in the amount of $2,191.58.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have Emergency Fusic Fest, this is also from Special Events. The proposal for the service agreement to pay Luis Serrano, d/b/a Vela LLC, $3,000.00 for use of the Lexus Hall for the emergency Fusic Fest due to the weather. The funds will be used from the Kielbasa Fest, which they did not use, will be used to pay for this. The amount is $3,000.00. They do have one paid service agreement attached to it. The Fusic Fest was held on Saturday, August 1st, 2026. It rained heavily that day, instead of canceling, they switched to the Lexus Hall and that's the reason for the charges.
Any questions or comments on this agreement? (None)
There being no further questions comments, I'd like to make a motion to pay Luis Serrano $3,000.00 for use of Lexus Hall.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next also is another agreement from Special Events, proposal agreement to pay Luis Serrano, d/b/a Vela LLC, $1,500.00 for the Fusic Sunday DJ and LED robot services. Once again, the funds we did not use for Kielbasa Fest will be used to pay this. That's $1,500.00. We do have an agreement.
Any questions or comments on this one? (None)
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the payment to Luis Serrano of $1,500.00 for services during Fusic Fest, Sunday DJ and LED robot services held on Sunday, August 2nd.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Then we have another proposal from Special Events. This proposal is for service agreement to pay Luis Serrano once again, d/b/a Vela LLC, total of $4,950.00 for Viva Fest DJ and opening acts. DJ Speaks was $750.00; opening Acts, Bands Revelacion $1,300.00 and Los Jefes Del Rancho for $1,600.00, and they have the agreement here. The only difference from this agreement, on this one Mr. Vela elected to not charge the ten percent booking fee for his services. So she is just requesting the $4,850.00.
Any questions or comments? (None)
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the payment for Mr. Luis Serrano for $4,850.00 for the services provided in Viva Fest.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Now we have from IT Department, this is a proposal from Pye Barker. It's the former Vermillion rate schedule for 2026. Kevin Klocek did give a brief statement.
"This is for Vermillion Systems 2026 rate schedule for time and material work, not-to-exceed of $20,000.00"
This is an annual agreement that IT Department has.
Any questions or comments?

MR. RIVERA: This is for Pye Barker.

MR. GOMEZ: Which is also Vermillion Systems. It has both names.

MS. GUZMAN: This is for '26?

MR. GOMEZ: It says 2026. Any other questions or comments? (None)
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the rate schedule from Pye Barker/Vermillion Systems rate schedule for 2026, with not-to-exceed of $20,000.00.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

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

Next we have from the Police Department, this is Sound Thinking. This is the annual contract, renewal contract with Sound Thinking, Resource Router. It's for $28,500.00. We do have a statement from the Police Department.

"East Chicago Police Department is requesting the renewal of the Sound Thinking Resource Router subscription.

Resource Router is a Sound Thinking patrol operations platform that uses automated, data driven analytics to forecast crime risk and generate precise shift and beat specific patrol plans, helping agencies maximize safety and efficiency with limited resources."

The cost in $29,500.00. I did reach out to the Police Chief and they have had the service for over five years.

Any questions or comments? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the proposal for Sound Thinking for their proposal for the Police Department.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

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

Now we come to the outstanding invoices. I believe we have 6. I'll read them off and make a motion at the end.

First one is from the Police Department. It's an invoice for one of the police officers, Sayra Jimenez. Invoice is dated 9/25/26 for $64.70. The reason for late payment, receipts were not submitted to the Service Division in a timely manner.

Any questions on this one? (None)

Next one is also from the Police Department. The vendor is Star Uniform. The date is 5/19/26. The amount is $1,195.00. Explanation: Due to oversight it was not mailed to the Police Department in a timely manner. Purchase Order 261137 was on hand to pay this invoice on time.

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

The next one also from the Police Department. The vendor is ADT Security Corporation. This invoice is dated 6/20/26, in the amount of $216.45. Explanation: Due to an oversight, it was not submitted in a timely manner by the Service Division. PO 260284 was on hand to pay the vendor.

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

Next one is from Midwestern Electric from Public Works. We have five late invoices. One is dated 3/31/26, amount of $4,537.02; invoice date of 3/31/26, amount of $1,041.00; invoice date of 4/30/26, amount of $3,824.03; invoice date of 4/30/26, amount of $28.400; and date of 5/31/26, amount of $280.00; grand total of $9,966.05. Explanation: Invoices were never sent to our office.

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

Next we have from the Building Department an invoice from Amereco Incorporated dated 6/29/26, in the amount is $20,165.00. Explanation: Oversight by the staff.

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

The last one is from Multi Media. The vendor is Sounds and Graphics. Late invoice dated 7/24/26, in the amount of $605.00. Explanation: Invoice wasn't paid due to competing priorities.

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

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

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we come to the Revised CSX Agreement. The agreement -- actually this agreement we passed a few months ago. There is a form, even though we are signing on page 6 of the Agreement, it does say on there that we certified no changes were made to the content of this Agreement and approved by the CSX, approved June 18, '25. That's actually the one we signed. So there is on the final -- second to the final

sheet -- there is a revision form. Basically the revision form on there states, this was requested -- we requested the change. And I believe the change is under description, Crossing signal corridor project from Euclid Avenue to Baring Avenue to establish a new quiet zone. Includes crossing signal work and installation of medians and curbs near the tracks.

Like I said, the price is still the same from the original. So I think it's just this entry on the description that needs to be changed.

Any questions or comments? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the revised CSX Agreement for the East Chicago Quiet Zone.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we come to Ciorba Croup. East Chicago requested additional design for the Chicago Avenue Project. So this is something -- there is only one page -- East Chicago requested this additional design for the Chicago Avenue Project. I believe the City of East Chicago sent this request for additional design to INDOT and INDOT has found at this point -- am I correct -- the cost is $110,455.29. I thought there would be more paperwork, but it's only one page. It breaks down the cost of the 110,000 by the survey and all the plans and design, lighting signal design, and function design for $110,455.29. Again, that was a request from the City and INDOT promptly replied.

Any questions or comments? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving this request.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we come to Total Parking Solutions. This is for parking meters and it's from the Engineering Department. The proposal is to install City parking meters at a cost of $21,620.00. Before us we only have them installed, but this is also the total equipment price. So this price is for for the

equipment. I did suggest to Engineering that they could put a sole proprietary form attached to this because this is the same company that we have bought so many meters from before. I don't know why we didn't have any other options. The total cost is $21,620.00 for the equipment.

Any further questions or comments? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Total Parking Solutions proposal to Engineering Department for parking meters.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we come to, also from Engineering, there is three contracts from Miranda's Concrete. The first one is for Miranda's Concrete will be patching various locations in the City due to Storm Lucy in the amount of $16,808.96. Areas are White Oak, Walsh Street and Wegg Street, for total of $16,808.96. That's for concrete patching.

Any questions or comments?

MS. GUZMAN: Do we have any other quotes that were submitted or that's the only one, or is that just based on the rates?

MR. GOMEZ: I think it's based on the rates we have for small projects.

MS. COSME: It's the rates that were approved during the year.

MR. GOMEZ: I didn't know the storm was called Lucy.

Next project for Miranda's Concrete is for speed humps at 4746 and 4808 Magoun. That's installing speed humps in the alley at 4746 Magoun and 4808 Magoun. The amount is $9,000.00 for both. The second sheet gives all the details for each one, one is $4,500.00, so total for $9,000.00.

Any questions or comments on this one?

MS. GUZMAN: This is the same situation

with rate sheets?

MS. COSME: Correct.

MR. GOMEZ: Usually we have one, that's why we have the different companies agree to rates. It's almost like our vehicle repair, where we rotate.

Last one is for patching aprons at various locations throughout the City. The amount is $49,000.00. Little more expensive. It's for 3700-block of Carey; 3800-block of Carey, 3800-block of Drummond; 3800-block of Euclid; 3700-block of Parrish; 3700-block of Hemlock; 3500-block of Parrish; 3500-block of Grand Boulevard; 3800-block of Pulaski; 3800-block of Alder; 3800-block of Deal, 3800-block of Evergreen; 3900-block of Elm, 3900-block of Deodor; 4000-block of Elm and 4000-block of Deodar. Total amount is $49,000.00.

Any questions or comments on the patching? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the three projects for Miranda's Concrete.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we come to a proposal from Engineering. The vendor is R & D Construction. The project is 2026-9 asphalt patching for the project, in the amount of $67,969.00. This one involves Drummond to Euclid 4100-block; Drummond to Euclid 3800-block; Main Street to Deodor 4000-block; Elm to Deodar 4000-block; Elm to Guthrie 3400-block; and Grand Boulevard to Guthrie 3400-block.

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving R & D Construction's proposal to our Engineering Department for asphalt paving.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Now we come to right-of-way

applications from the Engineering Department. We have right-of-way applications 26-05576 to 26-05583.

Any questions or comments on these right-of-way applications? (None)

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

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Under Other Business we have one item that was time sensitive. If you recall last year the City changed the way they were handling the employees clothing allowances. So, now, instead of giving them the money, the City is buying the equipment. There is like a certain time -- Public Works being the larger department -- requested that we get this in early because they want to act faster on it. So they have a request for 2026 safety gear for employees. That is for $30,000.00. Did everybody get this?

MS. GUZMAN: I don't recall seeing this.

MS. COSME: I sent a revised agenda this afternoon.

MR. GOMEZ: You might not have seen it. Our Public Works director, Jaylan Robinson contacted me.

MS. GUZMAN: So this is the vendor they want to use?

MR. GOMEZ: This is who he is going with. The attached paper he has Redwing Shoes and he has the prices. And as I mentioned, he got the prices for every individual department. There is quite a list here. And, you know, Public Works has a lot of workers. Some of it, he had mentioned to me there might be some accessories here. So it's shoes and accessories. So I think the department has that, I think it's in their contract, it's part of the contract. I didn't know if that was a change in their agreement, but I know it started last year with the departments buying the equipment.

Any questions or comments on this request from Public Works? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion to approve the request from Public Works for purchasing safety equipment for employees.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
That concludes our New Business and Other Business.
Our next regular meeting will be October 22, 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
October 8, 2026
Approved and Signed October 8, 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 14th day of October, 2026.

Peggy S. LaLonde

Peggy S. LaLonde

Peggy S LaLonde
Notary Public Seal State of Indiana
Porter County
Commission Number NP0710215
My Commission Expires 2/6/2034