

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD MEMBERS

Val Gomez, President
William Allen, Vice-President
Winna Guzman, Member

Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Reported by Fissinger & Associates, Ltd.

By: Peggy S. LaLonde

Staff Present: Olga Cosme

Call to Order: 4:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Val Gomez
William Allen
Winna Guzman

MR. GOMEZ: Good afternoon everyone. I'd like to call to order the meeting of the Board of Public Works for October 26th, 2023.

First on the agenda is approval of the minutes of Thursday, October 12, 2023. I'd like to make a motion we approve as written.

MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

MR. GOMEZ ALLEN: Motion carries.
We have no correspondence.

We'll move on to the New Business items. First, 2024 Health Benefits Renewal with Aetna. We have correspondence from Dave Baker and Lora Loomis, they are with Professional Health Services LLC. They represent the City in negotiating concerns with our insurance providers. "Attached is 2024 health benefit renewal spread sheets new 2024 policy with Aetna. After some negotiations Aetna lowered renewal from 13.7 increase to seven percent increase, which equals an annual increase of \$27,906.00. New 2024 policy has same specific deductible for individuals. Dental, vision have no increase in cost for the upcoming year.

1 Professional Health Services LLC, we'd ask the Board to
approve at the next meeting."

2 So they have attached all the
3 documents for this meeting. According to Lora's
4 correspondence, "We entered in a commitment with Aetna.
5 Aetna proved to be a valuable partner to employees of
6 the City of East Chicago. Initial renewal was
presentable to negotiate down from seven percent rather
7 than 13. Next year I will be able to negotiate more
8 vigorously since we have a full three years of claim
9 history and they continue to offer services to the City
10 of East Chicago."

11 So I'd like to make a motion to
12 approve the attached 2024 Health Benefit Renewal spread
13 sheet and the new 2024 City insurance policy with Aetna.
14 And further authorize the Board president to approve and
15 execute future contractual paperwork, subject to review
16 and approval of Professional Health Services LLC.
17 That's because Lora is still negotiating and she thinks
18 she can bring it down another percentage. So after this
19 approval she'll be sending us the final paperwork with
20 the final prices. It will be a multi year contract
again. Any questions or comments? (None)

21 MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

23 MR. GOMEZ ALLEN: Motion carries.

24 Next is our opening of bids for
25 Phase 1 of the Board of Safety Demolition of Unsafe
Structures from the Building Department. We are going
to pass that till 4:30, which is the time required.

Move on to the next one, which is
from World Class Body Shop Inc., this is Bus Transit,
for the emergency repair of one of the buses that was
involved in an accident. I spoke to Director, Mr.
Rosario, and the amount is \$7,376.00. Any questions or
comments on this proposal? (None)

There being no further questions or
comments, I'd like to make a motion we approve the
proposal from World Class Body Shop Inc., from Bus
Transit.

MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

MR. GOMEZ ALLEN: Motion carries.

1 Next we have Sounds and Graphics.
2 This is for a calendar/magazine from Multi Media. We
3 have two quotes. The Director is recommending this one
4 from Sounds and Graphics for \$19,847.43. The second
5 quote is for \$24,298.00. This is for 120 page calendar
6 with 11,000 items. Total cost \$19,847.43. Any
7 questions or comments on this? (None)

8 There being no further questions or
9 comments, I'd like to make a motion to approve the
10 proposal from Sound and Graphics in the amount of
11 \$19,847.43.

12 MR. ALLEN: Second.

13 MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

14 (All signify aye.)

15 MR. GOMEZ ALLEN: Motion carries.

16 Next we have Beyond Trust Software
17 Support from our IT Department. We do have a letter
18 from Kevin Klocek, our Director, with a description of
19 the device that's used within our network. The
20 Agreement is for hardware and software in the amount of
21 \$2,704.51. Any questions or comments? This is an
22 annual proposal that we renew every year. We've had no
23 issues with them. Any questions or comments? (None)

24 I would like to make a motion we
25 approve the proposal from Beyond Trust Software Support
for IT.

MR. ALLEN: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ ALLEN: Motion carries.

Next, Cleveland Cliffs, donation
check. We have correspondence from Natalie Adams, who
is the Special Events Director asking the Board to
approve this donation check to help with Special Events.
The check is for \$25,000.00 and it will go to Special
Events. Any questions or comments on this donation
check? (None)

There being no questions or
comments, I'd like to make a motion we approve the
donation check to Special Events.

MR. ALLEN: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

1 MR. GOMEZ ALLEN: Motion carries.

2 Next we have from Fire Department,
3 Macqueen Emergency. They are part of the City of East
4 Chicago Fire Department emergency apparatus service
5 policy that's been approved by us in the past, and it
6 has five companies that signed on. This proposal
7 includes the not-to-exceed amount of \$10,000.00 for this
8 company. They did sign the policy with the Fire
9 Department, it's just that they are adding the
10 not-to-exceed amount. Any questions or comments?
11 (None)

12 There being no questions or
13 comments, I'd like to make a motion we accept the Fire
14 Department's request to add the Macqueen Emergency
15 not-to-exceed amount of \$10,000.00.

16 MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

19 MR. GOMEZ ALLEN: Motion carries.

20 Next, Lindco Equipment rate table
21 for Public Works. We have 2023 rate table with
22 not-to-exceed of \$50,000.00. Is there any questions or
23 comments on this rate schedule? (None)

24 I'd like to make a motion we accept
25 from Public Works, Lindco Equipment rate schedule for
this year.

MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

MR. GOMEZ ALLEN: Motion carries.

Next we have from Public Works 2024
vehicle maintenance service policy that includes scope
of services, requirements, the rate schedules -- and
these are rate schedules that Public Works has taken the
average. If any company agrees to this rate schedule,
they are put on a rotating schedule. Right now we have
five vendors who have agreed to it. Any questions or
comments on this 2024 vehicle maintenance policy?
(None)

There being no further questions or
comments, I'd like to make a motion we approve the
Public Works vehicle maintenance policy with those five
vendors for vehicle maintenance.

MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

2 MR. GOMEZ ALLEN: Motion carries.
Next we have 2023-2024 snow

3 removal/snowplowing services. This is for '23 and '24.
4 This is where Public Works sets the rates for different
5 snowplowing services and equipment. For example,
6 bobcat, dump truck, and front truck loader, hourly
7 rates. And we have nine vendors that have agreed to the
8 prices. That is from this Fall to next year, the Winter
9 season. Any questions or comments on this? (None)

10 There being no further questions,
11 I'd make a motion to approve Public Works Department
12 snow removal/snowplow service policy for the 2023-2024
13 Winter season.

14 MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

16 MR. GOMEZ ALLEN: Motion carries.

17 Outstanding invoices: I'll read
18 each outstanding invoice and then we'll make a motion at
19 the end, there are five. First one Public Works from
20 Cintas. The date of invoice is 7/21/23 in the amount of
21 \$215.41. The reason is that the invoice was never
22 received from the vendor. Any questions on this one?
(None)

23 Next one is from Planning Department
24 with Fissinger. The date of late invoice is 7/20/23.
25 The amount is \$212.80. Explanation is invoice was never
received. This is from the Planning Department. Any
questions or comments on this one? (None)

We have another one with Fissinger &
Associates from Engineering Department. The date is
7/24/23, amount of \$265.28. Explanation is Engineering
Department received the invoice late. Services have
been rendered and invoice should be processed. Any
questions or comments? (None)

Next one is from Engineering
Department. This is from Short Elliott & Hendrickson.
The date is 7/19/23. Invoice amount is \$2,409.50.
Explanation, services have been rendered. Invoice was
received late. Invoice should be processed. Any
questions? (None)

Next from Harris Law Firm. This is
from our Law Department. We have several invoices, six
late invoices all dated from November 1st, 2022 to
August 31, 2023. Total amount is \$19,662.10.

1 Explanation is that the Law Department received the
2 invoices on October 4, 2023 from Harris Law Firm. I was
3 advised the invoices had not been paid at the time the
4 services were retained. Park Department neither
5 inquired or forwarded the invoices to the Law
6 Department. Please approve so the Law Department can
7 proceed with the payment for past due invoices. Any
8 questions or comments on this? (None)

9 There being no further questions or
10 comments, I'd like to make a motion we approve the Law
11 Department's request to pay the late invoices to Harris
12 Law Firm.

13 MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

16 MR. GOMEZ ALLEN: Motion carries.

17 I'd like to make a motion we approve
18 all other aforementioned late invoices.

19 MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

22 MR. GOMEZ ALLEN: Motion carries.

23 Next we have from Mark Andy Print
24 Products. This is for the purchase of the new check
25 sealer for payroll and accounts payable. The pricing is
the City government pricing. We are choosing the 4-Max
2006 because it comes with a cabinet. The funding comes
out of CEDA, in the amount of \$7,263.00, that includes
the proposal and also different model. Any questions or
comments? (None)

There being no further questions or
comments, I'd like to make a motion we approve of this
purchase from Mark Andy Print Products.

MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

MR. GOMEZ ALLEN: Motion carries.

Next we come to Resolution 2023-16.
This is for legal services with Harris Law Firm
authorizing the contractual legal services with Harris
Law Firm. This is to extend the cap on the contract in
the amount not-to-exceed of \$10,000.00, subject to
submission of itemized statements and approval of City

1 Controller's Office or City Council. Any questions?
(None)

2 There being no further questions or
3 comments, I'd like to make a motion to approve
4 Resolution 2023-16

5 MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

7 MR. GOMEZ ALLEN: Motion carries.

8 Next is Resolution 2023-17, transfer
9 of property to Redevelopment, quitclaim deed and sales
10 disclosure forms. Properties are commonly known as 3412
11 Grand Boulevard, 4913 Wegg Avenue, 3612 Guthrie Street,
12 3609 Euclid, 3621 Euclid, and finally 1911 Broadway.
13 These properties shall be conveyed for zero dollar
14 consideration to the City of East Chicago, Department of
15 Redevelopment. Any questions or comments on Resolution
16 2023-17? (None)

17 There being no further questions,
18 I'd like to make a motion we approve Resolution 2023-17.

19 MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

21 MR. GOMEZ ALLEN: Motion carries.

22 Next is Resolution 2023-18, 3901
23 Parrish and quitclaim deed. Certain property owned by
24 Redevelopment and now transfer to the City Board of
25 Public Works. The Department of Redevelopment, City of
East Chicago, conveyed and transfer for zero dollar
consideration the above described real estate to the
City of East Chicago Public Works Department. Any
questions or comments on Resolution 2023-18? (None)

In that case I'd like to make a
motion we approve Resolution 2023-18.

MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

MR. GOMEZ ALLEN: Motion carries.

Next is Resolution 2023-19. 3719
Main Street and quitclaim deed. Transfer of certain
properties owned by the Board of Works to the City of
East Chicago, Department of Redevelopment. The City of
East Chicago, Board of Public Works conveys and transfer

1 for zero dollar consideration, the above described real
2 estate to the City of East Chicago, Department of
Redevelopment. Any questions or comments? (None)

3 There being no further questions or
comments, I'd like to make a motion we approve
4 Resolution 2023-19.

5 MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

7 MR. GOMEZ ALLEN: Motion carries.

8 Next we come to Short Elliott &
Hendrickson, supplemental for Quiet Zone from
Engineering.

9 MR. ALLEN: This is a supplemental
10 agreement between the City and SEH, who's been hired to
perform PE services for our Quiet Zone Project. What
11 they did was facilitate the upfront payments to both
Norfolk Southern and CSX in order to begin the design
12 process for the railroad companies to establish
ourselves as a quiet zone. So it's \$19,000.00 to
13 Norfolk and then \$8,000.00 to CSX.

14 MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments?
(None) There being no further questions, I'd make a
15 motion we approve SEH supplemental for the Quiet Zone.

16 MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

18 MR. GOMEZ ALLEN: Motion carries.

19 Opening bid proposals for concrete
sidewalks on Deodar and Columbus Drive.

20 MR. ALLEN: First one is from R & D
Construction Inc., located 4714 Tod Avenue, East
Chicago, Indiana. We have a total cost of \$12,200.00
21 and this is to replace sidewalks near the Deodar and
Columbus intersection, northeast corner.

22 Next we have from Magnar Concrete,
located at 8421 Cottage Grove Avenue, Highland, Indiana.
23 Their total cost is \$12,550.11.

24 MR. GOMEZ: Those are the only two bids?

25 MR. ALLEN: These are the only two.

1 MR. GOMEZ: Are you going to come back
with a recommendation later?

2 MR. ALLEN: I mean, we can make the
3 recommendation now. We would recommend R & D
Construction.

4 MR. GOMEZ: So for the concrete sidewalks
5 at Deodar and Columbus Drive, you are recommending R & D
Construction at \$12,200.00?

6 MR. ALLEN: Yes.

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

9 There being no questions, I'd make a
10 motion to approve the recommendation of the Engineering
Department for R & D Construction's bid for the
sidewalks at Deodar and Columbus Drive.

11 MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

13 MR. GOMEZ ALLEN: Motion carries.

14 Next we have SEH supplemental for
Sophia Street reconstruction.

15 MR. ALLEN: So SEH supplemental for
16 Sophia Street reconstruction they are currently tasked
to perform preliminary engineering services for the
17 reconstruction of that street. This additional cost is
to analyze and assess sewers for this stretch. In the
18 documents that were sent out for proposal it didn't have
the proper lineal footage, so this is just a stretch
19 that was missed in the proposal for their services. So
the cost is \$3,967.00.

20 MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments on
this proposal? (None)

21 There being no further questions or
22 comments, I'd like to make a motion we approve SEH's
supplemental for Sophia Street Reconstruction.

23 MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

25 MR. GOMEZ ALLEN: Motion carries.

1 MR. ALLEN: Just for the record, it's
2 going towards the services of R & R Visual Sewers, who
3 were hired to do the sewer television work.

4 MR. GOMEZ: Next we have from R & D
5 Construction, rates for September 2023 to July 2024.
6 They have a labor and equipment rate for this period.
7 Any questions or comments? (None) There is a
8 not-to-exceed of \$150,000.00. Also we have from
9 Hessville Plumbing, rates from October 2023 to July
10 2024, not-to-exceed of \$150,000.00. Sanitary District
11 has some monies that are available and because of our
12 2024 resurfacing project, they have agreed to help us as
13 we come across manholes and underground facilities that
14 need to be either maintained or replaced to assist us
15 prior to repaving the streets.

16 Any questions or comments on R & D
17 or Hessville Plumbing rate schedules? (None)

18 There being no further questions,
19 I'd make a motion to approve R & D Construction and
20 Hessville Plumbing rate schedules for 2023 to July 2024.

21 MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

23 MR. GOMEZ ALLEN: Motion carries.

24 Next we have right-of-way
25 applications 23-04613 to 23-04617. Any questions or
comments? (None)

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

MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

MR. GOMEZ ALLEN: Motion carries.

Now we'll go back to our 2023 Phase
1, Board of Safety, demolition of unsafe structures.

MR. ALLEN: First one is from Actin, Inc.
Environmental Industrial Services, located 1102 East
Columbus Drive, P.O. Box 518, East Chicago, Indiana.
James, I'm just going to read the addresses in Group 1,
and then the total for each of them respectively. So
Group 1 we have addresses: 4823 Alexander, 4854

1 Alexander, 4832 Kennedy, 4834 Kennedy, 4842 Kennedy,
2 4902 Ivy, 4753 Melville, 5024 Melville. And the cost
for each respectively, is \$20,818.00, \$14,820.00,
\$7,000.00, \$22,568.00, \$14,850, \$13,980.00.

3 For Group 2, we have four
4 properties. They are 4731 Baring, 4835 Baring, 5014
Indianapolis Boulevard, 5029 Wegg Avenue. And the cost
5 for each project respectively is \$15,110.00,
\$196,082.00, \$24,200.00, \$11,505.00.

6 Looks like nine properties in Group
3. They are 415 Broad Street, 3823 Butternut, 3827
7 Butternut, 3750 Drummond, 3727 Hemlock, 3830 Main. 3917
Main, 3810 Pulaski, 3441-43 Watling Street. And the
8 cost for each respectively are \$18,128.00, \$39,589.00,
\$32,200.00, \$8,855.00, \$24,310, \$283,392.00, \$16,560.00,
\$17,368.00, and then \$36,000.00.

9 For Group 4 we have three addresses,
10 1802 Broadway, 4003 Deodar, 4219 Ivy. And the cost for
the three respectively is \$4,500.00, \$5,000.00; and
11 then \$7,000.00. Do you have any alternates?

12 MR. PORTALATIN: No.

13 MR. GOMEZ: James, for the record, they
could be awarded individually or by group?

14 MR. PORTALATIN: Yes, it goes to the
15 lowest bidder.

16 MR. ALLEN: Next, Richardson Disposal
located 620 East 10th Place, Gary Indiana. I'll do the
17 same thing, read addresses in Groups 1 through 4 and
then the prices respectively.

18 Group 1, 4823 Alexander, 4854
Alexander, 4832 Kennedy, 4834 Kennedy, 4842 Kennedy,
19 4902 Ivy, 5753 Melville, 5024 Melville. The prices
respectively are, \$39,000.00, \$19,000.00, \$12,400.00,
\$19,000.00, \$19,000.00, \$19,000.00, and then \$47,500.00.
20 That was for Group 1.

21 Group 2, four properties, 4731
Baring, 4835 Baring, 5014 Indianapolis Boulevard, and
5039 Wegg Avenue. The prices for the four respectively
22 are \$22,000.00, \$18,500.00, \$17,000.00, and then
\$19,200.00.

23 Group 3: Addresses at 415 Broad
Street, 3823 Butternut, 3827 Butternut, 3740 Drummond,
24 3727 Hemlock, 3830 Main, 3917 Main, 3810 Pulaski rear,
3441-43 Watling Street. And the price for them
25 respectively are \$23,950.00, \$29,500.00, \$39,000.00,

1 \$23,000.00, \$28,100.00, \$65,000.00, \$28,100.00,
2 \$47,000.00 and then \$30,000.00.

3 And then for Group 4, the three
4 properties are 1802 Broadway Street, 4003 Deodar, and
5 4219 Ivy Street. The prices are \$5,000.00, \$2,900.00,
6 and then \$4,000.00.

7 Then we have one more from JM
8 Industrial Services Inc., located at 416 North State
9 Road 55, Fair Oaks, Indiana. Group 1: Addresses of
10 4823 Alexander, 4854 Alexander, 4832 Kennedy, 4834
11 Kennedy, 4842 Kennedy, 4902 Ivy, 4753 Melville, 5024
12 Melville. Prices respectively are \$70,500.00.
13 \$18,700.00, \$17,000.00, \$12,200.00, \$15,200.00,
14 \$14,300.00, \$16,800.00 and then \$43,800.00.

15 Group 2: Addresses of 4732 Baring,
16 4835 Baring, 5014 Indianapolis Boulevard, 5029 Wegg
17 Avenue. Prices are respectively \$15,700.00, \$15,500.00,
18 \$16,300.00, \$12,600.00.

19 Group 3: Addresses are 415 Broad
20 Street, 3823 Butternut, 3827 Butternut, 3740 Drummond,
21 3727 Hemlock, 3830 Main, 3917 Main, 3810 Pulaski rear,
22 and then 3441-43 Watling Street. Prices respectively
23 are \$38,600.00, \$23,500.00, \$30,300.00, \$11,600.00,
24 \$22,500.00, \$93,300.00, \$18,900.00, \$95,000.00,
25 \$42,600.00.

And then for Group 4, we have
addresses at 1802 Broadway Street rear, 4003 Deodar
Street garage, 4219 Ivy Street garage. Prices
respectively are \$5,875.00, \$2,975.00, and then also
\$2,975.00. And that's it.

James, you want to check these and
circle back at the next meeting?

MR. GOMEZ: Next meeting come back with
your recommendation?

MR. PORTALATIN: Correct.

MR. GOMEZ: That concludes all business.
We have no other business.

Our next regular meeting will be
Thursday, November 9, 2023, at 4:30.

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

MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

1 MR. GOMEZ ALLEN: Motion carries.
2 Meeting adjourned.

3 **** Meeting Adjourned ****

4
5 Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of
6 October 26, 2023
7 Approved and Signed October 26, 2023.
8

9 _____
10 Val Gomez, President

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12 _____
13 William Allen, Vice President

14 _____
15 Winna Guzman, member

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17 _____
18 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 1st day of November, 2023.

Peggy S. LaLonde

Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR



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