October 7, 2025

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 9:00 A.M.

Present: Mayor Dermody, Jessica Romine, Mark Kosior
Absent:

Roscoe Hoffman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes
Each member received an advance copy of the minutes. Mayor Dermody asked if there were any additions or corrections.

Motion/Vote – Approval of September 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Motion/Vote – Approval of September 24, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Public Comment
None

Claims Approval
Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented payroll from September 26, 2025 in the amount of $559,693.76.

Motion/Vote – Approval of September 26, 2025 Payroll
Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve the September 26, 2025 payroll as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Q3 Quarterly Payroll in the amount of $1,926.88.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Q3 Quarterly Payroll
Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Q3 Quarterly Payroll as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Civil City Claims in the amount of $1,035,973.41.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Civil City Claims
Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve the Civil City Claims as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Sewage Claims in the amount of $563,058.21.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Sewage Claims
Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve the Sewage Claims as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Water Claims in the amount of $338,805.09.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Water Claims
Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Water Claims as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Approval of Claim: La Porte County Project Management, Inc.
Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Approval of Claim: La Porte County Project Management, Inc. This is for an invoice that did not make it on the docket but does need to be paid. This invoice is for water damage at City Hall in the amount of 1,028.64.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Claim: La Porte County Project Management, Inc.
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Claim: La Porte County Project Management, Inc. as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

New Business:
Ticket Appeal
Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented Ticket Appeal. Ms. Loeffler stated the information was sent to the Police Department and initially the recommendation was to uphold the ticket but after further investigation it was determined that the individual would not have been able to read the sign from where he was parked and therefore the Police Department recommends voiding the ticket. Ms. Loeffler noted the Street Department has been notified and will be replacing the sign.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Ticket Appeal
Ms. Romine made a motion to void ticket as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Request for Use: NYB Grand Opening
Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented Request for Use: NYB Grand Opening. Ms. Loeffler stated NYB will be hosting a grand opening at their new office building and public park and are requesting the closure of Factory Street from Boston Street to the railroad crossing on Factory Street on the edge of their property. The closure will be on October 21st for approximately three hours. Ms. Loeffler noted they are requesting the closure because they have buildings on both sides of the road and are concerned about the safety of those individuals touring the spaces. NYB has provided a copy of their liability insurance.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Request for Use: NYB Grand Opening
Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Request for Use: NYB Grand Opening as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Lease Agreement: City of LP – Interfaith Community Pads
City Attorney Nick Otis presented Lease Agreement: City of LP - Interfaith Community Pads. Attorney Otis stated this agreement is for the train depot, the same as the city did last year with The Nest. Attorney Otis noted this comes on the recommendation of Mayor Dermody. Mayor Dermody stated this will be the last year for The Nest at the train depot as they are looking for a more permit spot in La Porte. The Nest will be open starting October 15th. Ms. Loeffler stated they served quite a few people last year.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Lease Agreement: City of LP - Interfaith Community Pads
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Lease Agreement: City of LP – Interfaith Community Pads as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Award Public Purchase of Beechwood Lakes Property
Director of Community Development and Planning Craig Phillips presented Award Public Purchase of Beechwood Lakes Property. Mr. Phillips stated September 4, 2024 a bid opening took place, one bid was received and read aloud. Mr. Phillips noted the bid offered two options:

Option A: A bid of $1,870,00 for the land purchase with the city paying for the infrastructure envisioned in the plan.

Option B: A bid of $2,510,000 for the land purchase and the developer would pay approximately 75% of the infrastructure cost with the remainder of that cost being the responsibility of the city.

Mr. Phillips stated a lot of negotiations had happened since the original bid opening and a development agreement was made and approved by both the Board of Public Works and City Council. The final step in this process is awarding the bid before closing on the property. Mr. Phillips stated they had agreed on Option A for $1,870,000 in conjunction with the development agreement that was previously approved. Mr. Phillips noted the minimum bid, which was the average of two appraisals, was $1,865,000. Mr. Kosior asked what the process was behind choosing between the two options was. Mr. Phillips stated during negotiations the developer agreed to pay 100% of the cost of the infrastructure and that is reflected in the development agreement. Executive Director of the La Porte Economic Development Partnership Bert Cook clarified that in this scenario the developer will be assuming all of the risk for the infrastructure, which is not uncommon for projects like this.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Award Public Purchase of Beechwood Lakes Property
Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Award Public Purchase of Beechwood Lakes as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Sewer Backup Claim

Wastewater Superintendent Jerry Jackson presented Sewer Backup Claim for 304 Martin Street. Mr. Jackson stated that when there is a sewage blockage and it causes damage to a basement during dry weather, the city generally covers the cost of the damage. When there is a wet weather event, generally the city's insurance stated we are not liable. This situation is a dry weather event with a blockage that resulted in a backup into a basement. Mr. Jackson noted the city had previously taken care of the cleanup costs, but mold had become an issue later. Mr. Jackson noted an agreement was written up by Attorney Otis releasing the city from any further claims or obligation from issues that may arise. Mr. Jackson stated the claim is in the amount of $7,615. This amount includes the mold cleanup in the amount of $3,839.95, the cleanup that previously happened, and some property damage.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Sewer Backup Claim

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Sewer Backup Claim as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Garden St Paving County Invoice

City Engineer Nick Minich presented Garden St Paving County Invoice. Mr. Minich expressed his appreciation for La Porte County for partnering with the City of La Porte on this project. Mr. Minich noted Garden Street was part of the Community Crossings Grant and due to part of the area being county, the city would have had one contractor come in and the county would have a separate contractor. The city made an agreement with the La Porte County to pave Garden Street and utilize the county's paving contract. Mr. Minich stated we may have paid slightly more than we would have because we did not receive our 50% match but it made more sense to have one contractor complete the entire project. Mr. Minich stated the invoice is in the amount of $41,679.94 and recommends approval pending the funds being available. This amount does include the cost of striping. Mayor Dermody asked for clarification on the fact that we would be paying the county directly and not Reith-Riley. Mr. Minich confirmed we would pay the county directly as they have a large paving contract with Reith-Riley and could get the paving completed at a reduced cost.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Garden St Paving County Invoice

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Garden St Paving County Invoice as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

2024-2 Street Paving Pay App

City Engineer Nick Minich presented 2024-2 Street Paving App. Mr. Minich stated he does have a change order to go with the pay app. The change order is for drainage work that is being done in addition to the community crossings paving work. Mr. Minich emphasized a lot of this will be supported by the Stormwater Department. The change order is in the amount of $52,976.66.

Motion/Vote – Approval of 2024-2 Street Paving Change Order
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve 2024-2 Street Paving Change Order as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Mr. Minich presented 2024-2 street paving pay application #3 in the amount of $172,270.58. Mr. Minich noted we are receiving our MVH draws on a monthly basis and recommends approval pending receiving the appropriate draws to make the payment.

Motion/Vote – Approval of 2024-2 Street Paving Pay App
Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve 2024-2 Street Paving Pay App as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Open Quotes – Perry St Drainage/Pedestrian Improvements
City Engineer Nick Minich presented Open Quotes – Perry St Drainage/Pedestrian Improvements. Mr. Minich stated quotes were solicited from five firms and three were received back. Mr. Minich stated we do want to try and get this done this construction season and requested to review the bids and make a recommendation for awarding them under unfinished business later in the meeting. The following quotes were received:

Reith-Riley Construction in the amount of $229,057.00.
Milestone Contractors in the amount of $259,948.00.
Pavey Excavating in the amount of $283,895.00

Motion/Vote – Open Quotes – Perry St Drainage/Pedestrian Improvements
Ms. Romine made a motion to accept the bids and award at the end of the meeting; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Request to Bid Civic Elevator – Pending HUD Approval
City Engineer Nick Minich presented Request to Bid Civic Elevator – Pending HUD Approval. Mr. Minich stated they are working on putting together the bid package for the Civic elevator replacement. This will be through CDBG and we do not have all the approvals yet but want to make sure once all the approvals are received, we can start the process immediately. Mr. Minich stated the request is to bid or quote this project pending HUD approval.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Request to Bid Civic Elevator - Pending HUD Approval
Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Bid or quote Civic Elevator – Pending HUD Approval as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Request Approval for SourceWell Quote – Crack Seal Machine
City Engineer Nick Minich presented Request Approval for SourceWell Quote – Crack Seal Machine. Mr. Minich emphasized they are working hard on having the Street Department be successful with crack sealing and they do not currently have a crack sealer; it went down on the first day. Mr. Minich stated they got quotes from SourceWell and they looked at three different manufacturers. SourceWell allows the city to buy directly from pre-qualified

distributors and manufacturers. Three options were looked at. The first option was for a step machine in the amount of $70,000. It was for the demo model which is an older model. The second option is for a Cimline in the amount of $107,000. This option is very comparable to what was previously being used. The third option is a super shot 250 DC in the amount of $96,176.40. This option includes a compressor and will allow for a three-person team for the crack sealing operation as opposed to a four-person team that would be needed with the other options. Mr. Minich stated his recommendation is to purchase the super shot 250 DC in the amount of $96,176.40 and he will be working with Clerk-Treasurer Parthun on the funding. Mr. Minich noted this will take approximately three to four weeks to receive it once it is ordered but they can have a lease unit available as soon as the end of this week for the crew to get out and begin crack sealing. Mayor Dermody emphasized the importance of crack sealing and the investment in this machine to keep our good roads good.

Motion/Vote – Approval of SourceWell Quote – Crack Seal Machine
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve SourceWell Quote – Crack Seal Machine as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Avenew Agreement
City Engineer Nick Minich presented Avenew Agreement. Mr. Minich stated we are currently seeing our resurfacing lasting functionally seven to eight years and we really need to be getting 10; He emphasized the fact that we need to be doing something differently. Avenew is well connected in understanding materials, and they do have a lot of experience with INDOT. Mr. Minich stated we are looking to engage them to help with various street operations and look at ways we can become more efficient and get more done with the funds we have. Mr. Minich stated because they have leadership that is extremely experienced in working directly with INDOT, it will open the door to a high level of discussion regarding Lincolnway and how to make our downtown area more livable. Mr. Minich stated this agreement is an hourly agreement and estimates it to cost approximately $45,000 for the remainder of this year. Mr. Minich stated he does have the funds available in his professional services budget for the remainder of this year. Mayor Dermody noted this partnership is with the former mayor of Franklin and he was able to remove truck traffic off the downtown within eight months by utilizing other current highway as well as he was the former head of INDOT. Mayor Dermody also noted, Avenew will also look at our road needs and fund that and allow the city to pay over time and he expressed his excitement for this partnership. Mr. Minich stated this agreement is task based, and we have several tasks that we will be having them help with. Mr. Kosior noted he did not see a not to exceed limitation with this agreement. Mr. Minich stated this is an hourly agreement and they will keep track of the budget and keep it to where it will fall within budget. Ms. Romine questioned the length of this agreement. Mr. Minich stated the on-call service agreement rates are through 2026. He emphasized he has the funds available in his professional services budget for 2025 but will not be able to cover the entire cost of these services in 2026. Mayor Dermody noted they would be having a discussion with street, water, and wastewater to help with funding as we are looking at the bigger picture and because we are spending more time working together as a group versus working individually.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Avenew Agreement
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Avenew Agreement as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Lochmueller Agreement
City Engineer Nick Minich presented Lochmueller Agreement. Mr. Minic stated NIES Engineering is doing a lot of the oversight on the wellfield project, primarily the wells, but there is also a lot of interaction with road projects and the trail project. This agreement with Lochmueller is an on-call agreement not to exceed $50,000. Mr. Minich stated John Smith is a great local guy who knows the projects in that area and can be available to provide extra communication and oversight. This will allow us to ensure between HRP and NIEC's oversight that the residents are taken care of during the process. Mr. Minich stated he recommends approval.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Lochmueller Agreement
Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Lochmueller Agreement as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Dental Carrier Change: MetLife to Equitable, Change Voluntary Short-Term Disability to Equitable, Add Voluntary Accident/Hospital Indemnity, Add Voluntary Critical Illness
Human Resources Director Andrea Smith invited Dawn Gonda with Innovative Broker Solutions and Erick Gibson with High Street to speak about changes to dental benefits and ancillary lines being offered to all employees.

Mr. Gibson stated the City of La Porte has a lot of ancillary benefits coming up for renewal and they did go to market to try and negotiate the best terms. Mr. Gibson recommended staying with Equitable for life insurance and by doing so they can add dental coverage and Equitable will hold the current life rate. On the dental side of things, moving from MetLife to Equitable will be below current as MetLife did come in with a pretty hefty renewal. Mr. Gibson emphasized Equitable will be enhancing the dental benefits with teeth whitening as a covered benefit. Mr. Gibson recommended on the vision side keeping MetLife as the provider because our current plan pricing is great and does still include the second pair rider. Mr. Gibson recommends moving STD, short-term disability, to Equitable from Lincoln Financial. The pricing on that will be below current in addition to some improvements. Mr. Gibson recommends keeping voluntary life with Equitable as it will help simplify things with carriers.

Mr. Gibson stated the worksite products that are currently offered through American Fidelity will continue to be offered through American Fidelity but also adding the option of accident and hospital indemnity through Mutual of Omaha as well as critical illness through MetLife. Mr. Kosior questioned what ancillary services are offered through American Fidelity. Mr. Gibson stated accident, hospital indemnity, critical illness, and other voluntary policies are offered through American Fidelity. He emphasized the new recommended polices would be

in addition to those already offered through American Fidelity and would just offer additional options for employee and would not be taking anything away.

Ms. Gonda noted that adding the critical illness coverage through Metlife, they are able to remove the pre-existing condition limitation and can add that coverage for cancer, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, loss of speech, hearing, sight, and severe burns. Mr. Kosior noted it is fantastic to be able to reduce costs by adding benefits. In addition, Ms. Gonda stated with the Mutual of Omaha accident coverage, they are increasing some of the benefit levels that are already provided through American Fidelity and increasing the wellness reimbursement to $100. The hospital indemnity policy will be doubling the hospital admission benefit and removing the pre-existing condition limitation.

Ms. Smith noted that due to the team that is there today and the employees and due diligence and discipline there will be no increases to insurance premiums for 2026 for medical, dental, or vision. Ms. Smith thanked Mayor Dermody and Clerk-Treasurer Parthun for all their work toward making that possible.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Dental Carrier Change: MetLife to Equitable, Change Voluntary Short-Term Disability to Equitable, Add Voluntary Accident/Hospital Indemnity, Add Voluntary Critical Illness

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Dental Carrier Change: MetLife to Equitable, Change Voluntary Short-Term Disability to Equitable, Add Voluntary Accident/Hospital Indemnity, Add Voluntary Critical Illness as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Mayor Dermody noted that October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and requested Andrea Smith to read a Breast Cancer Awareness Proclamation declaring the month of October, 2025 as Breast Cancer Awareness month in the City of La Porte. Ms. Smith read the proclamation in its entirety. Mayor Dermody encouraged everyone to keep those fighting and the family and friends of those that have lost their battle in your thoughts and prayers.

Department Head Reports

Human Resources: Human Resources Director Andrea Smith reminded everyone that October is breast cancer awareness month and encourages everyone to get screened. In addition, Ms. Smith gave a shout out to all the participants in the Chicago Marathon this weekend, including her son, and wished them all a safe race.

Unfinished Business

Quotes – Perry St Drainage/Pedestrian Improvements

City Engineer Nick Minich stated we can only quote our projects up to $150,000 because that's State Statue. Mr. Minich stated with this they combined two projects; sidewalk and ramp work with storm sewer work and estimates were right at the $150,000 threshold and all the quotes received today exceeded that amount and therefore we cannot legally award the quote. Mr. Minich stated the option is to rescope and quote again or go through the bid

process. Mr. Minich stated he recommendation is to reject the quotes and he will immediately put out a public bid with the anticipation of awarding at the next meeting. Attorney Otis confirmed by stating legally we cannot accept any of these quotes because they all exceed $150,000.

Motion/Vote – Reject Quotes: Perry St Drainage/Pedestrian Improvements
Mr. Kosior made a motion to Reject Quotes: Perry St Drainage/Pedestrian Improvements as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Other Business:
Next regularly scheduled meeting: Tuesday October 21, 2025 at 9 A.M.

Adjourn
There being no further business, Mr. Kosior made a motion to adjourn; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Approve: _____
Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor

Attest: _____
Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: October 21, 2025