

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD MEMBERS

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

Special Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

Reported by Fissinger & Associates, Ltd.

By: Peggy S. LaLonde

Staff Present: Olga Cosme  
Richard Morrisroe

Call to Order: 4:30 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 September 14th, 2023.

First on the agenda is approval of the minutes of Thursday, August 17, 2023 Special Meeting, and and regular meeting on Thursday, August 24th, 2023. I'd like to make a motion we approve both as written.

MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

We have no correspondence. New Business. First item on the agenda is rate schedules from Public Works. We have rate schedules for 2023 from Best Equipment, not-to-exceed of \$50,000.00; from Fence Masters, Inc., not-to-exceed of \$10,000.00; Tonkovich Oil Co., Inc., for lubricants, not-to-exceed amount of \$40,000.00; and from Cam's Tree Service, not-to-exceed \$10,000.00. Also for Cam's Tree, this is not for tree cutting service, it's for removing the byproducts of cutting the trees. That not-to-exceed again is \$10,000.00. Any questions or comments on the four rate

1 schedules? (None)

2 There being no further questions or  
3 comments, I'd like to make a motion we approve all four  
4 rate schedules for Public Works.

5 MR. ALLEN: Second.

6 MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

7 (All signify aye.)

8 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

9 Next from Public Works we have Ninja  
10 De-Icer proposal. This is the de-icer put on the  
11 streets in anticipation of a heavy snow or ice  
12 situation. The rate is .66 per gallon, and the total  
13 gallons would be up to 4500 and up to 2250. There is a  
14 differential in price on those. One is a little bit  
15 stronger according to Public Works. Are there any  
16 questions or comments on this proposal? (None)

17 There being no further questions or  
18 comments, I'd like to make a motion we approve the  
19 proposal from Ninja De-Icer with Public Works for their  
20 winter de-icing.

21 MR. ALLEN: Second.

22 MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

23 (All signify aye.)

24 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

25 Next we move on to outstanding  
invoices. First one is from Public Works, Zandstra.  
Late invoice dated 6/16/23. The amount is \$30,786.00.  
Their explanation, the invoice was never sent to Public  
Works office. Any questions or comments on this late  
invoice? (None)

Next invoice is also from Public  
Works from Highland Glass. Invoice dated 6/21/23,  
amount of \$832.00. Explanation is invoice was never  
sent to Public Works office. Any questions or comments  
on this late invoice? (None)

Next, also Public Works is from  
Granger. Date of 5/10/23, amount of \$144.54.  
Explanation, invoice was never mailed to the front  
office. Any questions or comments on this invoice?  
(None)

Next, Cintas from Public Works,  
invoice dated 6/23/23, amount of \$37.67. Once again  
invoice was never received from vendor. Any questions  
or comments on this one? (None)

Airgas from Public Works. They have

1 three late invoices dated 5/31/23, 5/31/23, and last one  
2 is also 5/31/23. Total amount of \$658.30. Explanation,  
3 invoices were given to the vehicle maintenance secretary  
4 but she did not process them for payment. Any questions  
5 or comments on this invoice?

6 MS. GUZMAN: Is she no longer there? I  
7 was just wondering.

8 MR. GOMEZ: I haven't heard that they  
9 lost anybody.

10 MS. GUZMAN: No further questions.

11 MR. GOMEZ: No further questions we'll  
12 move on to the next invoice. This is from Krooswyk  
13 Trucking. Invoice is dated 6/17/23, amount of \$1406.25.  
14 Explanation, this was e-mailed to Animal Control and  
15 they just received it from the Health Department. So  
16 instead of going to Public Works it went to the Health  
17 Department. Any questions or comments on this one?  
18 (None)

19 Next, Robinson Engineering from the  
20 Engineering Department. We have late invoices dated  
21 2/25/22, 3/25/22, 4/27/22, 5/23/22, 6/14/22. Total  
22 amount of \$24,075.59. Explanation, Engineering  
23 Department received invoices on time but however the PE  
24 services had to be approved prior to payment being  
25 processed. Services have been rendered and invoices  
should be processed. Any questions or comments on this  
late invoice? (None)

Next one from CDW-G, Police  
Department. There are two late invoices. One dated  
5/22/23 and the other one 5/23/23. Total amount of  
\$656.53. Explanation, invoices were lost. Purchase  
order was on hand for these purchases. Any questions or  
comments on this one? (None)

Move on to the next one. Next one  
is from the Fire Department dated 6/28/23, amount of  
\$684.91. Company named Breathing Air Systems.  
Explanation, mistakenly thought the invoice was already  
submitted to the Controller. Obviously it was not. Any  
questions or comments? (None)

Next, the last late invoice is also  
from the fire department. It's from Ben's Blue Bags.  
The date is 12/1/22, in the amount of \$1500.00.  
Explanation is oversight error on the Fire Department  
side. Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

That concludes the invoices for this

1 meeting. And for the record, all of the work was  
2 completed to the satisfaction of each department. There  
3 being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make  
4 a motion to approve all the aforementioned late  
5 invoices.

6 MR. ALLEN: Second.

7 MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

8 (All signify aye.)

9 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

10 Next we have a donation check. This  
11 is from Star Uniform. This is a donation to the Fire  
12 Department of \$150.00. We have a letter from Chief  
13 Carpenter, the \$150.00 is a donation in support of our  
14 annual programs. These funds will be used to purchase  
15 material for the ECFD Open House in October. Show the  
16 acceptance of these funds. Any questions or comments on  
17 this donation? (None)

18 There being no further questions or  
19 comments, I'd make a motion to approve the  
20 aforementioned donation.

21 MR. ALLEN: Second.

22 MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

23 (All signify aye.)

24 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

25 Next we have Macqueen Equipment,  
Fire Department. This is a letter from the Deputy Chief  
Mark Escebedo requesting new tires. On the way to a  
call had a bad tire and upon further review multiple  
tires had expired and need replacing. Attached quote is  
for total cost of replacing defective tires. For the  
record, 2252 is their larger vehicle. The department  
has a large aerial ladder truck. And the cost for the  
removal and replacement is \$8,566.06. There is an  
additional cost of emergency roadside assistance for  
when the incident occurred. Combined total is  
\$10,390.27. Any questions or comments on this proposal?  
(None)

There being no further questions or  
comments, I'd like to make motion we approve the  
proposal for replacement of the Fire Department's truck  
tires and their emergency incident concerning their  
aerial truck.

MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

2 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

3 Next, this is from the Controller's  
4 office, Government Fixed Asset Services. This is an  
5 annual service that we contract with Government Fixed  
6 Assets, with Mr. Nielsen. It's for providing services  
7 in regard to the requirement for capital fixed asset  
8 services, which we have to report to the State.  
9 Basically helps in my office with my senior accountant,  
10 Alysia, with getting this report ready for the State.  
11 Any questions or comments? The amount, the report is  
12 \$4,950.00, plus expenses. Any questions or comments?  
13 (None)

14 There there being no further  
15 questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion we  
16 accept the proposal from Government Fixed Asset Services  
17 from the Controller's Office.

18 MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

20 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

21 Next we have on the agenda Employee  
22 Reports. It says Controller, but actually from HR.  
23 This is for Employee Reports, that's the name of the  
24 company. They are the ones who provide background  
25 checks for HR for new hires or whatever reason they  
might need a background check. There is several  
different types, and depending on the service, there's a  
price for each one. I believe there is not-to-exceed of  
\$7,000.00. Any questions or comments on this proposal?  
(None)

There being no further questions or  
comments, I'd like to make a motion we accept the  
proposal from Employee Reports for HR, for background  
checks.

MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have, this came from the  
Mayor's office, this is contract for professional  
services between the City and Carl Ridle, compliance  
officer. This is an exact copy of the contract we had  
with Mr. Ridle before as compliance officer. This is

1 for 2023. The only change has been the detail of this  
2 contract with reporting work with the City Department of  
3 Redevelopment and any other department where compliance  
4 reporting is necessary. The amount is \$33.00 per hour,  
5 but not-to-exceed of \$30,000.00. Any questions or  
6 comments on this renewal of Mr. Ridle's contract?  
7 (None)

8 There being no further questions or  
9 comments, I'd like to make a motion for approval of Mr.  
10 Ridle's contract as compliance officer in the  
11 aforementioned amounts for the year 2023.

12 MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

15 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

16 Next we have a liability waiver with  
17 Club Ki Yowga, Inc., from the Mayor's office. It's a  
18 hold harmless and indemnification agreement for location  
19 at 5220 Indianapolis Boulevard, Car Show on Saturday,  
20 September 30, 2023, to 4:00 p.m. The City has offered  
21 to allow to utilize the empty lot adjacent to the Club  
22 for parking during the car show. The property will be  
23 used for guests and visitors going to the car show at no  
24 cost to the club. For consideration, this indemnifies  
25 and hold the City harmless to any person, third party,  
or entity for any liability or damage alleged for the  
use of this property on September 30, 2023, including  
bodily injury, damage, property damage, wrongful death  
caused by negligence or fault of any members, agent, and  
any other third party. The club issues this liability  
waiver to the City to further protect it from any  
monetary insult resulting from the use of the  
aforementioned property during the car show. The holds  
harmless and indemnifies the agreement and agrees to the  
terms. And it's signed by Angie Rodriguez, the manager.  
Any comments or questions on this liability waiver?

MS. GUZMAN: Is there anything in there  
about cleaning up after the event?

MR. GOMEZ: I don't see that, but I would  
inform Public Works and maybe they can reach out to them  
and get that done. Any other comments? (None)

There being no further comments or  
questions, I'd like to make a motion we approve the  
liability waiver holding harmless and indemnification  
between Club and City of East Chicago with the one

1 condition that we check into the situation with the lot  
2 after the event as far as cleaning.

3 MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

5 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

6 Next, we have from Special Events,  
7 Federal Protection Agency. We do have a comment from  
8 Vanessa Hernandez-Orange with an updated invoice for  
9 Fusic Fest. I believe these were additional charges  
10 that weren't included in the original cost as far as  
11 Federal Protection was involved. I do have a list of  
the services that were provided in addition to the  
original proposal. And these cost added additionally  
\$10,147.34. And I believe Mrs. Orange verified this,  
she is the one that spoke with Federal Protection and  
went over the additional costs to insure they were  
proper. Are there any questions or comments on this  
proposal? (None)

12 There being further questions or  
13 comments, I'd make a motion we approve the proposal for  
14 additional cost of security at Fusic Fest this year in  
15 the amount of \$10,147.34.

16 MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

18 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

19 Next, we have rate schedule for  
20 Morrison Construction for 2023 from Engineering,  
21 not-to-exceed of 50,000. Also rate schedule from  
22 Engineering from Midwestern Electric and it's for  
23 traffic signal and street light maintenance,  
24 not-to-exceed \$100,000.00. Any questions or comments?  
(None)

25 There being no further questions or  
comments, I'd make a motion to accept the two rate  
schedules from Engineering for 2023.

MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have proposal from Northwest  
Industrial Specialists. This is from Engineering. This

1 is for \$11,700.10, basically for different street signs.  
2 178-inch by 36-inch by point 28, double sided street  
3 name signs. And those unit wise are \$66.03. Total  
4 amount of \$11,255.10. And then we have 58-inch by  
5 42-inch by point 28 double sided street name signs, and  
6 these are \$.95 each for total of \$445.00, for grand  
7 total of \$11,700.10. Any questions or comments on this  
8 proposal? None.

9 There being no further questions or  
10 comments, I'd like to make a motion to approve the  
11 proposal with Northwest Industrial Specialists with our  
12 Engineering Department in the amount of \$11,700.10.

13 MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

16 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

17 Next we have Milestone concerning  
18 the US 12 roundabout at Cline Avenue frontage road,  
19 change order #2, for Engineering.

20 MR. ALLEN: Also known as Columbus Drive  
21 roundabout. This is a balance and change order savings  
22 of \$244,461.25 at the conclusion of the project.

23 MR. GOMEZ: It's not an increase, that's  
24 good. Any questions or comments on this change order?  
25 (None)

There being no further questions or  
comments, I'd like to make a motion we accept Milestone  
change order #2 for the US 12 Columbus Drive roundabout.

MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have change order #1 for  
Pavement Solutions, micro-surface project.

MR. ALLEN: So Pavement Solutions will be  
applying the micro-surface to a number of streets  
throughout East Chicago. This change order is to go  
through the streets to trim and cut tree branches and  
limbs so that they don't interfere with the work that is  
to come on the streets. The change order calls for  
\$24,200.00.



1 MR. GOMEZ: Is it 24 or \$25,894.00?

2 MR. ALLEN: It's the 24 -- sorry --  
3 \$25,894.00.

4 MR. GOMEZ: There being no further  
5 questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion we  
6 approve change order #1 for micro-surface on various  
7 streets in the amount of \$25,894.00.

8 MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

11 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

12 Next we have from Robinson  
13 Engineering, supplemental #2, Homerlee Avenue, CE,  
14 amount of \$4,366.50.

15 MR. ALLEN: This is additional  
16 construction engineering work or observation work that  
17 was originally anticipated. Net increase of \$4,366.50  
18 for CE related surface for the Homerlee construction  
19 job.

20 MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments?

21 (None)

22 There being no further questions or  
23 comments, I'd like to make a motion we approve  
24 supplemental 2 from Robinson Engineering for Homerlee  
25 Avenue reconstruction project, amount of \$4,366.50.

MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we come to Hasse Construction,  
change orders #1 and #2 for Indianapolis Boulevard sewer  
and water project.

MR. ALLEN: Change order #1 is an  
increase, the amount is \$18,006.39, that's for  
additional lining. There was reduction in sewer  
material that was needed and additional water valves  
that were installed on Indianapolis Boulevard.

Change number #2 would be  
combination of sidewalks and curbs to be installed in  
between the blocks of 145th and Chicago Avenue, as well

1 as the installation of light poles, which includes  
2 concrete, foundation, conduit, wiring, etcetera. Total  
amount \$1,547,303.00.

3 MR. GOMEZ: Just for the record, it's  
4 \$1,547,000.00 which is still below the 20 percent of the  
change order because the contract is 14 million.

5 MR. ALLEN: Correct.

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

8 There being no further questions or  
9 comments, I'd make a motion to approve Hasse  
10 Construction change order 1 and 2 for Indianapolis  
11 Boulevard sewer and water contract.

12 MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

15 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

16 Next we have National Power Rodding,  
17 change order #2 for Roxana sewer lining, Phase 1. And  
18 this is zero dollar change.

19 MR. ALLEN: It's no increase to the  
20 original contract amount. This was just usage of this  
21 PO in order to take care of a point repair and emergency  
22 point repair that was needed within the same footprint.

23 MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments on  
24 this? (None)

25 There being no further questions or  
comments, I'd like to make a motion we approve National  
Power Rodding change order #2 for Roxana sewer project.

MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we are adding this to New  
Business. It was brought up before and we tabled it.  
This concerns our working sidewalk project.

MR. ALLEN: Engineering Department is  
making the recommendation at this point to move forward  
and awarding Pintos Concrete Project 9, amount of

1 \$69,200.00 and Project 10 to Richardson Disposal in the  
2 amount of \$83,500.00. Both contractors were found to be  
3 the lowest and most responsive for those two projects.  
And projects 11, 12, and 13 will be awarded at a later  
date.

4 MR. GOMEZ: On the amount for Richardson,  
5 I see you mentioned 83, but I see a line through it and  
it's got 76. Is it 76 or 83?

6 MR. ALLEN: \$83,500.00.

7 MR. GOMEZ: So we are going forward with  
8 Richardson with Project 10, which will be \$83,500.00?

9 MR. ALLEN: That I have here. That's for  
10 Project 9. Project 10 includes curbs and sidewalks. So  
the correct number is 835.

11 MR. GOMEZ: Let's get this right.

12 MR. ALLEN: Project 9 is just the  
sidewalks.

13 MR. GOMEZ: That's Pintos Concrete,  
14 amount of \$69,200.00. And for Richardson Disposal it  
will be 83, not the 76.

15 MR. ALLEN: Right, it's \$76,024.00, plus  
16 the \$7,476.00, which total would be \$83,500.00 for  
Project 10. Sorry for the confusion.

17 MR. GOMEZ: So for the record, we have  
18 for Pintos Concrete, Project 9, \$69,200.00. For  
Richardson Disposal, for Project 10 will be \$83,500.00.

19 MR. ALLEN: Correct.

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

21 There being no further questions or  
22 comments, I'd make a motion to approve the  
aforementioned contractors and amounts for Projects 9  
and 10.

23 MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

1 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

2 Okay, that brings us to right-of-way  
3 applications. We have right-of-way applications  
4 23-04595 through 23-0499. Any questions or comments on  
5 these permit applications? (None)

6 There being no further questions or  
7 comments, I'd like to make a motion we accept  
8 aforementioned Board of Public Works permit  
9 applications.

10 MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

13 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

14 I believe we have no other business.  
15 Our next regular meeting will be Thursday, September 28,  
16 2023, at 4:30.

17 That concludes our items on the  
18 agenda for tonight. I'd like to make motion for  
19 adjournment.

20 MR. ALLEN: Second.

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

23 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.  
24 Meeting adjourned.

25 \* \* \* \* \*

1  
2 Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of  
3 September 14, 2023

4 Approved and Signed September 14, 2023.

5 \_\_\_\_\_  
6 Val Gomez, President

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8 \_\_\_\_\_  
9 William Allen, Vice President

10 \_\_\_\_\_  
11 Winna Guzman, member

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13 \_\_\_\_\_  
14 Olga Cosme, Secretary

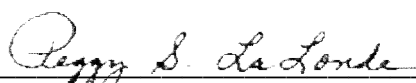
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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 15th day of September, 2023.



Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR



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