

# City of LaPorte Board of Public Works and Safety

July 21, 2010

## Convene

City of LaPorte Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session in the Council Chambers on July 21, 2010 at 9:00 am. Attendance: Mayor Chrobak, Present: Mr. MacLennan, Present: Mr. Rosenberg, Present.

## Pledge

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Chrobak.

## Minutes

As each member of the Board received an advance copy of the minutes prior to the meeting, Mayor Chrobak stated she would dispense with the reading of same and asked for any corrections or additions.

## Motion/Vote - Approval of Minutes from July 14th

Mr. MacLennan made a motion to approve the minutes from July 14th as presented; Mr. Rosenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Mayor Chrobak (Yes), Mr. MacLennan (Yes), and Mr. Rosenberg (Yes).

## Public Comment

None

## Clerk Treasurer

### Claims Approval

Mr. Rosenberg moved to approve Civil City Claims in the amount of \$511,360.26; motion seconded by Mr. MacLennan and unanimously carried. The Clerk Treasurer, Teresa Ludlow, noted the July trash bill was part of the claims as well as an insurance payment from the CEDIT Fund to the Insurance Fund.

Mr. Rosenberg moved to approve Payroll Claims for July 23, 2010 in the amount of \$311,774.56; motion seconded by Mr. MacLennan and unanimously carried.

## Contractor Registrations

The following contractor registrations were presented for the Board's approval:

- |                                 |                |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Benner Mechanical & Electric | Burlington, KY |
| 2. Clover Signs                 | Brazil, IN     |

Mr. MacLennan moved to approve the contractor registrations as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Rosenberg and unanimously carried.

## **New Business**

### **Wastewater-Quotes Opened for Nitrification Tower Pumps**

Jerry Jackson, Director of Wastewater, solicited quotes from five different vendors to install four new nitrification tower pumps and appurtenances. Mr. Jackson explained this is part of the Energy Efficiency Block Grant his department was awarded earlier this year and the funds will come from this grant. John Phipps, Nies Engineering, informed the Board he prepared specifications and sent them to five different contractors. Mr. Rosenberg asked Mr. Phipps if he had an engineer's estimate. Mr. Phipps stated the original estimate was \$62,000.00 but due to scope changes ordered since then, the estimate is now \$99,100.00. Mr. Rosenberg requested Mr. Phipps provide the Board with a document listing the engineer's estimate.

The following quotes were received:

1. Woodruff & Sons	Michigan City IN	\$288,000.00
2. Gaskill & Walton	S. Chicago Heights, IL	\$208,000.00
3. Thieneman Construction	Merrillville, IN	\$198,000.00
4. Bowen Engineering	Crown Point, IN	\$176,000.00

Mr. Rosenberg moved to refer the quotes to the City Attorney, Jerry Jackson and Nies Engineering, for their review and recommendation at the next Board meeting; motion seconded by Mr. MacLennan and unanimously carried. Mr. Rosenberg asked Mr. Phipps if he was concerned the bids were so much higher than the estimate. Mr. Phipps stated he was concerned indeed.

### **Traffic Appeals**

One appeal was presented today. Yvonne Connolly, Violations Bureau, stated she issued the ticket to Bridget Sobecki, 108 Lakeview Court, for parking outside the lines in the 800 block of Monroe Street which resulted in the unsafe obstruction of the intersection and crosswalk. Ms. Sobecki appeared before the Board to dispute the ticket stating the parking space is very deceiving yet she was sure she didn't obstruct the crosswalk. Mrs. Connolly pointed out there used to be yellow lines on the curb as well as a sign stating "No Parking between Here and Corner" which helps to avoid any obstruction of view for motorists entering the intersection. Mayor Chrobak added, with the entire reconstruction of Monroe Street last year, INDOT has failed to replace all of the original signs. Discussion was held about the lack of signage, and Ms. Sobecki provided photos of her vehicle clearly not blocking the crosswalk. Mayor Chrobak asked Julie Smith, Captain of the Police Department, to look into the actual distance allowed for parking too close to an intersection to avoid blocking other motorists view.

Mr. Rosenberg moved to void the ticket and instruct the State Highway Department to properly mark the area in question with signs and/or paint to avoid this problem in the future; motion seconded by Mr. MacLennan and unanimously carried.

Mr. Rosenberg stated there was a bad accident recently at the intersection of I Street and 3rd Street and felt similar signs would help avoid these types of accidents in the future since this is a problem on I Street at several other intersections as well. If people are parking so close to the intersections, it's virtually impossible for cross traffic to see when to pull out. Mayor Chrobak asked Mike Frazee, Director of Street, to look into those intersections and bring his recommendation back to the Board.

### **Closure Request**

Dale Clingerman, Director of Engineering and Building Services, presented a request from AA Rain tite Roofing to block parking spaces on the east side of Indiana Avenue and the sidewalk next to Thaddeus Gallery from Lincolnway to the alley in order to make roof repairs. The roof has partially collapsed and is temporarily shored up while the insurance company is waiting for a structural engineer to review the facility. The work was supposed to start this weekend, but is delayed for a week. Mr. Adams from AA Rain tite Roofing is in the process of obtaining a permit from the State Highway as well. Mr. Clingerman anticipates the work to begin in a week or so; whenever the insurance company has made their determination.

Mr. MacLennan moved to approve the alley and sidewalk closure as requested; motion seconded by Mr. Rosenberg and unanimously carried. Mayor Chroback asked Mr. Clingerman to let her know when the insurance company has made their determination of loss so she will know if the project is delayed yet another week.

### **Street Closure-LaPorte High School**

Mayor Chroback read a letter from Ed Gilliland, Athletic Director at LaPorte High School, asking for the usual street closures during the 2010 home football games. The closures are C Street from 8th to 10th Street; and 8th Street from E to F Streets from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. This will allow for safe pedestrian traffic walking to and from the high school parking lot and provide for school buses parking along C Street. Mr. MacLennan asked Fire and Police if they had any concerns and they did not. Mayor Chroback stated the school has worked with the Street Department to get barricades up and it has always gone smoothly.

Mr. MacLennan moved to approve the street closures as requested; motion seconded by Mr. Rosenberg and unanimously carried.

### **Use of City Property-Blues Fest**

Mayor Chroback read a request from the LaPorte City Firefighter's to use the Dennis Smith Amphitheatre on August 21st from noon until 10:00 p.m. for their annual Blues Festival. Mr. MacLennan clarified the entity requesting the use of City property and providing the liability insurance is not the City Fire Department, but the Firefighter's Union. They are requesting the closure of Truesdell from Taylor to McClung Road during those hours as well. Chief Sabie stated they man the barricades and allow people to come and go to the ball fields and skate park as needed.

Mr. Rosenberg moved to approve the street closures and use of Fox Park for the Firefighter's Blues Festival on August 21st from noon until 10:00 p.m.; motion seconded by Mr. MacLennan and unanimously carried.

### **Use of City Property-American Red Cross 5k Run**

Mayor Chroback presented a request from the American Red Cross to hold their annual 5k run during the Sunflower Festival on Saturday, September 18th from 8:30-10:00 a.m. The route starts at City Hall on Michigan Avenue and continues down to Beechwood Golf Course and back again. They are not requesting road closures; volunteers will be stationed at each intersection as the runners go by.

Mr. MacLennan moved to approve the request for the 5k run; motion seconded by Mr. Rosenberg and

unanimously carried.

### **CDBG-Change Order**

Mary Ann Richards, Program Manager for the Community Development Block Grant Program, presented a Change Order for 236 E. Lincolnway in the amount of \$1,680.00 and recommended the Board approve same. The change order is for the replacement of the roof decking which was found to be necessary once the roof was torn off.

### **Motion/Vote - Approval of CDBG Change Order**

Mr. MacLennan made a motion to approve the Change Order to Vic Butcher Construction for \$1,680.00 as requested; Mr. Rosenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Mayor Chrobak (Yes), Mr. MacLennan (Yes), Mr. Rosenberg (Yes).

### **CDBG Quotes-General Repairs**

Mrs. Richards presented quotes for general repairs for the CDBG Homeowner Repair Program and they are as follows:

	<b>Vic Butcher Construction</b>	<b>Langley Construction</b>
108 Grandview	\$6,739.00	\$9,410.00
113 Erie	\$1,550.00	\$2,670.00
114 Warsaw	\$1,040.00	\$2,300.00
236 E. Lincolnway	\$ 175.00	\$ 500.00
318 Planett	\$3,300.00	\$4,500.00
513 Grove	\$4,050.00	\$7,700.00
708 Fifth	\$1,562.00	\$4,400.00
1005 Harrison	\$ 490.00	\$1,600.00
1313 Second	\$ 800.00	\$1,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$19,706.00</b>	<b>\$34,580.00</b>

Mr. MacLennan asked Mrs. Richards if she has worked with both of these companies before. She stated Vic Butcher Construction has done the majority of the roofing and lead hazard reduction for the latest round of homeowner repairs, but Langley is a newer company to the CDBG program. Mrs. Richards advised she solicited quotes from five different contractors but only these two responded. She stated she is required by law to use contractors who are certified by the EPA as participating in the "Renovate Right" program and both of these companies qualify as such.

Mr. MacLennan moved to refer the quotes to the City Attorney and CDBG program for their review and recommendation; motion seconded by Mr. Rosenberg and unanimously carried.

**CDBG Quotes-Lead Hazard Risk Assessments/Clearance Tests**

Mrs. Richards explained the next set of quotes was for lead hazard risk assessments and clearance tests which are a HUD requirement for each residence before any construction may begin. Once again, she solicited quotes from five different companies but only three responded and they are as follows:

	<b>Lead Risk Assessment</b>	<b>Clearance Test</b>
<b>Greentree Environmental</b>	\$390.00 per property	\$200.00 per property
<b>Amereco, Inc.</b>	\$434.75 per property	\$250.00 per property

**TecServ Environmental**

Mrs. Richards noted the quote from TecServ Environmental quoted each property separately as well as listing a \$100.00 hazard control option cost for each property instead of lumping it in with the lead risk assessment price as is customary. Their quote is as follows:

<b>1406 Monroe</b>	\$450.00	\$275.00
<b>315 E. Maple</b>	\$450.00	\$375.00
<b>3402 Silverbrook</b>	\$300.00	\$225.00
<b>1103 Weller</b>	\$300.00	\$275.00
<b>1711 Andrew</b>	\$450.00	\$225.00
<b>110 Parkview</b>	\$300.00	\$175.00
<b>108 D</b>	\$450.00	\$375.00
<b>306 Niles</b>	\$450.00	\$375.00
<b>316 G</b>	\$450.00	\$375.00

Mr. MacLennan asked Mrs. Richards if the same company should be used to do the lead hazard risk assessment before each project as well as the clearance test afterwards for continuity of service. Mrs. Richards stated she can use the same company for both, but is not required to.

Mr. Rosenberg moved to refer the quotes to the City Attorney and CDBG program for their review and recommendation; motion seconded by Mr. MacLennan and unanimously carried.

**CDBG-Contract for Rumely Apartments**

Mrs. Richards presented the Board with a contract agreement to use CDBG funds as a grant award to the Rumely Historic Apartments in the amount of \$12,944.00. The grant will be used to install automatic doors and card readers at three entrances and it does meet eligibility guidelines through HUD and the money has been appropriated. Mr. Rosenberg asked if the City Attorney has reviewed the contract; Mr. Baugher stated he has.

**Motion/Vote - Approval of CDBG Contract-Rumely Apartments**

Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to approve the contract agreement as presented; Mr. MacLennan seconded

the motion. The motion passed by vote: Mayor Chrobak (Yes), Mr. MacLennan (Yes), Mr. Rosenberg (Yes).

#### **City Planner-Depot Light Fixture**

Mary Jane Thomas, Director of Community Development and Planning, requested permission from the Board to pay for repairs to a light fixture at Central Station Plaza which was damaged during a recent storm. The cost of repairs is \$644.00 payable to Marquiss Electric and the money will be paid from the CCD Fund.

#### **Motion/Vote - Authorization to Repair Depot Light Fixture**

Mr. MacLennan made a motion to authorize the payment for repairs as requested; Mr. Rosenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Mayor Chrobak (Yes), Mr. MacLennan (Yes), Mr. Rosenberg (Yes).

#### **City Planner-Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant**

Ms. Thomas reported during the first round of grant money received through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program, the City received \$34,000.00 to retro-fit lights at the Civic, Wastewater, Water and Street Departments. During the second round of grant awards, the Wastewater plant has received \$207,000.00 for the purchase of high efficiency pumps and materials for the bio-tower pump stations at the treatment plant. In order to expedite the second grant agreement, the State has recommended the City amend the current grant already on file with the State to include the additional grant monies. In doing this, the City would replace page one of the agreement and appendix A of the grant agreement already in Indianapolis. Page one will change to reflect the new total as \$241,536.00; appendix A will change to reflect the project descriptions. This way the grant agreements can move through the system and contracts can be awarded before the end of the year when the grant money has to be spent.

#### **Motion/Vote - Approval of Revised Grant Agreement**

Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to approve the revised grant agreement as presented; Mr. MacLennan seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Mayor Chrobak (Yes), Mr. MacLennan (Yes), Mr. Rosenberg (Yes).

#### **City Attorney-Water Department Land Purchase**

Mr. Baugher reported the City Water Department has been negotiating with Superior Realty for some time now, to acquire some acreage on the east end of town for additional water well fields. In May the court appointed appraiser set the value of the acreage at \$135,600.00 which the City felt was too high. However, Mr. Baugher feels by pursuing this in court it could cost the City even more money in appraisals and additional fees. Mr. Baugher recommends the Board authorize the payment to the court in said amount to avoid further costs. Todd Taylor, Director of Water, stated the testing performed on this property has given good indication of both quality and quantity of water available but he would have more data available by the end of the week. Mayor Chrobak asked Mr. Taylor if he was at all concerned about the artifacts found on the well site possibly holding up the project in any way. Mr. Taylor advised he was not concerned because he is able to adjust the routes of the piping if need be. Mr. Baugher stated this has been a long legal process already, and if the City didn't purchase this property and had to start over, it would not be

advisable as this water source has been badly needed for a long time.

### **Motion/Vote - Authorization to Purchase Land**

Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to pay the cost \$135,600.00 upon approval of the well monitoring system by Mr. Taylor; Mr. MacLennan seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Mayor Chrobak (Yes), Mr. MacLennan (Yes), Mr. Rosenberg (Yes).

### **Fire Department- Equipment Trade**

Fire Chief, Rob Sabie, requested the Board's permission to trade the old flag pole at the former north side fire station to a City firefighter for a washing machine. The washing machine at station #3 is broken and this would fit their need. Mr. Baugher stated he needed to investigate the process of trading equipment before this moves any further.

Chief Sabie reported on Monday of this week roof repairs were made to the roof at the old north side fire station to prevent water damage and if the damage gets any worse, something major will have to be done.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **Lincoln Highway Yard Sale**

Mayor Chrobak stated for the past several weeks Jim Bevins has been trying to coordinate a yard sale to benefit the Lincoln Highway Project but it may have to be cancelled due to a personal conflict. Mayor Chrobak stated she would make the Board aware of the decision as soon as she hears from Mr. Bevins.

### **CMAQ Bike Racks**

Mary Jane Thomas reported she spoke with Wally Brath with the LaPorte County School Corporation and he informed her each principal would have to be contacted to decide if they want any of the bike racks allotted them from the CMAQ grant. The problem is, the principals will not be back in their offices for another two weeks. Mayor Chrobak stated the disbursement of these bike racks is becoming more problematic than it needs to be and she recommends the City just take possession of the bike racks and wait to be contacted by the school and county as to how many each of them would like to have. The Mayor stated she would send each of them a letter stating such and we will store the bike racks until further notice.

### **Motion/Vote - Approval of CMAQ Grant**

Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to formally accept the CMAQ Grant for bike racks; Mr. MacLennan seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Mayor Chrobak (Yes), Mr. MacLennan (Yes), Mr. Rosenberg (Yes).

### **Boston Street Project**

Dale Clingerman, Director of Engineering and Building Services, reported the recent change order

approved by the Board on June 30th in the amount of \$308,704.32, for the new water main for the Boston Street Project, needs to be modified. Mr. Clingerman stated even though the Board approved the change order, the State has to approve it as well. In the meantime, the INDOT engineer added some additional work items which increase the total of the change order by \$962.68 for a total of \$309,667.00, and Mr. Clingerman recommends the Board approve same. This increase will be split 80/20 as usual.

Mr. MacLennan moved to approve the modification to the change order as requested; motion seconded by Mr. Rosenberg and unanimously carried.

Mr. Clingerman pointed out with this change order, the City is gaining the value of roughly \$600,000.00 worth of new water main work for approximately \$110,000.00.

Mr. Clingerman reported effective Monday, July 26th, for approximately two months, Boston Street from Lincolnway to North Street will be closed to all but local traffic. Mr. Clingerman stated he has informed all the residents and businesses in the area so they are aware of the closure.

## **Department Head Reports**

### **Water**

Mr. Taylor reported the Crescent Drive Water Main Project is almost complete and he expects to be opening the valves before the end of the week. Mr. MacLennan asked how many new fire hydrants were installed due to this project. Mr. Taylor stated he installed six new hydrants.

### **Wastewater**

Mr. Jackson reported the lake level is at 797.8 which is unchanged from last week and the siphon is still off. He stated Clear Lake has receded as well.

Mr. Jackson stated he solicited quotes from three local dealers to replace a truck that was involved in a traffic accident and received quotes back from Pine Ford, LaPorte Chrysler and Sauers. The low quote was from Pine Ford in the amount of \$30,783.99 for a 2011 Ford F-250 with a diesel engine. Mr. Jackson said he requested quotes for vehicles already a couple of years old to save money, but they were more expensive than the brand new model. Mr. Rosenberg asked how much insurance money was going towards this purchase. Mr. Jackson stated he believed he was reimbursed approximately \$6,500.00 for the totaled vehicle.

Mr. Rosenberg moved to accept the quote from Pine Ford Commercial in the amount of \$30,783.99; motion seconded by Mr. MacLennan and unanimously carried.

### **Street**

Mr. Frazee reported his crew has finished all of the clean up from the recent storms and sent his claim into FEMA for reimbursement. He reported they hauled away 63 loads of brush and 40 loads of chipped debris. His claim to FEMA is in the amount of \$27,312.20.

### **Police**

Captain Julie Smith reported a rash of vehicle break-ins have occurred throughout the City and she reminded the public to lock their vehicles and not leave valuables in plain sight.

**Fire**

Chief Sabie invited the public to come to the LaPorte County Fairgrounds to see the “Survive Alive” house on display.

**City Attorney**

Mr. Baugher reminded everyone there is an Executive Session today immediately following the meeting and asked Mr. Taylor to attend.

**Executive Session**

Mr. MacLennan moved to set an Executive Session next week following the July 28th meeting for the purpose of litigation; motion seconded by Mr. Rosenberg and unanimously carried.

**Mayor**

Mayor Chroback reminded everyone to attend Arts in the Parks tonight featuring the City Band. Thursday evening the entertainment will be “Me and the Boys”.

The Mayor invited everyone to attend the County Fair which will be going on all week.

Mayor Chroback distributed a copy of an email she received from IACT for a conference in Indianapolis on August 4th to learn more about Geographic Information Systems. GIS systems can be used for managing infrastructure, improving facility and program management, augmenting revenues and reducing expenses. The use of GIS is widespread among local government but experts tell us that we are hardly scratching the surface of the potential applications in virtually everything municipalities do. The 2010 Beacon Conference is sponsored by the Schneider Corporation and will feature the Beacon software that is proving to be the industry leader in GIS applications. Mayor Chroback asked any of the department heads to notify her if they are interested in attending.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Rosenberg moved to adjourn; motion seconded by Mr. MacLennan and unanimously carried.

**Signatures**

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen Chroback, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Joanne Layman, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer  
Approved: July 28, 2010