

January 4, 2012

The Board of Public Works and Safety of the City of LaPorte met in regular session in the Council Chambers on Wednesday, January 4, 2012 at 9:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Milo, Mark Krentz and Clay Turner

Absent: None

Pledge

Mayor Milo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Milo welcomed everyone to the Board meeting especially Mr. Krentz who is returned and new Board member Clay Turner.

Minutes

As each Board member received an advance copy of the minutes from the previous meeting, Mayor Milo stated they would dispense with the reading of same and asked if there were any corrections or additions.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Krentz moved to approve the minutes as submitted; motion seconded by Mr. Turner and unanimously carried.

Petitions & Comments

Jeff Galey, 3145 N. Cha Mar Hills Drive, congratulated the new Mayor as well as the Board members. Mr. Galey stated he was present at the ceremony held on Sunday to swear in the newly elected officials and appointments. He wondered if there is a fire code that stipulates how many people can safely occupy the Council Chambers, as there were quite a few people in attendance. Andy Snyder, Fire Chief, stated there is a fire code but it wasn't exceeded because of the people in the hallways and upstairs and the exists weren't blocked.

Clerk-Treasurer

Claims Approval

Sewage claims in the amount of \$44,883.65 were presented for the Board's approval. Mr. Krentz moved to approve the Sewage claims as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Turner and unanimously carried.

Water claims totaling \$43,534.27 were presented to the Board for their approval. Mr. Turner moved to approve the Water claims in the amount of \$43,534.27; motion seconded by Mr. Krentz and unanimously carried.

Contractor Registrations

None

NEW BUSINESS

Traffic Violations

None

East Treatment Plant – Pay Request #2

Todd Taylor, Director of Water, presented for the Board's approval Pay Request #2 for Ortman Drilling in the amount of \$61,189. He stated this is Contract #1 for the drilling of the new wells at the East Treatment Plant. The total for this contract is \$143,410 and with this pay request it will bring the contract to 85% complete. Mr. Turner inquired if the retainage listed on the pay request is cumulative. Mr. Taylor stated that was correct. Mr. Turner asked if Mr. Taylor is recommending the approval of the pay request. Mr. Taylor responded yes. He explained pay requests are not brought before the Board of Works until the engineers have reviewed and given their approval.

Motion/Vote – Approve Pay Request #2 for Ortman Drilling East Treatment Plant

Mr. Krentz moved to approve Pay Request #2 for Ortman Drilling as presented to the Board; motion seconded by Mr. Turner and unanimously carried.

Board of Works Appointment to the Fire Merit Commission

Mayor Milo reported the Board of Works appointment to Fire Merit Commission expired on December 31, 2011. She explained the Fire Merit Commission is made up of five members, two appointed by the Fire Department, two by the Board of Works and one by the Common Council. All appointments are for a four-year term and each must live within the City limits. Further, the appointments by the Fire Department and Board of Works must have one appointment from each political party, one Republican and one Democrat. The Mayor advised the Board's current appointment, Ed Gondeck, meets all of these requirements and has expressed an interest in continuing to serve.

Motion/Vote – Fire Merit Commission Appointment

Mayor Milo moved to appoint Ed Gondeck as the Board of Works and Safety appointment to the Fire Merit Commission; motion seconded by Mr. Krentz and unanimously carried.

Mr. Gondeck extended an invitation for the Mayor to attend the Fire Merit Commission meeting tonight at 6:30 p.m. at the 18th Street Fire Station.

Quotes – Demolition 507 Home Street

Dale Clingerman, Director of Engineering, advised on November 16, 2011 the Board of Public Works approved the solicitation of quotes to demolish of a home at 507 Home Street, which has been condemned. He reported that quotation was never sent out because we were waiting to receive the funding from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), which had not been released. He stated they anticipate the funds from the CDBG Grant to be released any day. Mr. Clingerman advised the Board the City now has a second structure at 1801 Monroe Street, which has gone through the Court system; that needs to be demolished. This demolition will be paid from the Unsafe Building

Fund. Mr. Clingerman requested the Board's permission to solicit quotes for both structures under one quotation in the hopes of getting a better price. He advised the quotes will not be sent out until the funding from the CDBG Fund has been released. Mayor Milo inquired how much Mr. Clingerman anticipates this will cost. Mr. Clingerman stated he figures they should come in around \$4,000 to \$5,000 each. Discussion was held regarding the property at 1801 Monroe Street and why it does not qualify to be paid with CDBG funds. Mary Jane Thomas, Director of Community Development and Planning, came forward and explained the Department of Historic Preservation (DHPA) did not provide a clearance for 1801 Monroe because they consider it an historic structure. She reported there were people within the community who also feel it is an historic structure and should not be demolished and be restored. Therefore, the City cannot use CDBG funds to demolish that structure. Mr. Turner inquired if the City imposes a tax lien on the property for the costs incurred to demolish the structure. Don Baugher, City Attorney, reported the City would get a Court Judgment which; is filed with the Recorder's Office which becomes a lien against the real estate. He stated he does not anticipate the City would recover any monies, as the property will become a vacant lot. Mayor Milo inquired if there will be any ramifications in demolishing an historic home. Mr. Baugher reported the City took this matter to Court and obtained a Court Order to demolish the home. He stated no one filed any petitions or objections. He stated it doesn't mean you won't get people to object but the City did take the legal processes necessary to get a Court Order. Mr. Turner stated just because the City is soliciting quotes does not mean the Board has to accept them.

Motion/Vote – Solicit Quotes for Demolition of 507 Home Street & 1801 Monroe Street

Mr. Krentz moved to approve the solicitation of quotes to demolish 507 Home Street and 1801 Monroe Street; motion seconded by Mr. Turner and unanimously carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Water Department: Mr. Taylor advised the Board next week he will be bringing to the Board a contract with AT&T to lease space at the Brighton Street Water Tower for their cellular infrastructure. Mr. Taylor explained AT&T currently leases space at that facility but wants to add a diesel generator. He advised we have asked the generator be natural gas, which they have agreed to. Currently AT&T pays the City a little of \$2,000 per month and they are proposing an additional \$400 per month.

Mr. Taylor advised when demolishing a structure included in the quote is a fee to disconnect the water line from the main. He reported his employees will be doing the work at both structures, which will save the City some money.

Sewage Department: Jerry Jackson reported the City is doing a storm sewer project that begins at the Beechwood Golf Course and goes to Monroe Manor. He advised currently the project is 25% complete with most of the challenging work already done. Woodruff

& Sons, the contractor for the project, will continue to work during the winter months, as weather permits however they will need to bore under Monroe Street and that cannot be done until springtime. Mr. Jackson stated he will send more information to the Board to bring them up to date on the project.

Mr. Jackson reported the lake levels are holding their own. He stated ideally we like to maintain the levels at 798 feet. Mr. Jackson reported not only do you have issues when the levels rise but there are also issues when the lake levels become too low. He reported currently the siphon is off.

Fire Department: Chief Snyder advised currently with the appointment of a new Fire Chief and Assistant Chief it leaves the department short one Captain position. He requested the Board authorize the Fire Merit Commission to promote someone to the Captain position off their promotional list.

Motion/Vote – Captain Promotion (Fire Department)

Mr. Krentz moved the Fire Merit Commission be authorized to fill the vacancy of Captain within the Fire Department; motion seconded by Mr. Turner and unanimously carried.

Police Department: Adam Klimczak, Police Chief, announced today is Sgt. Eric Struss's last day after 20 years of service. He wished Sgt. Struss the best.

Transit: Tom MacLennan reported today Transit is scheduled to receive a new bus. He advised it will take about two weeks to through the paperwork and inspections. There are some new features on this bus, which will require some training for the drivers. They hope to have the bus in service in about two weeks, after which time the crankiest bus will be taken off line. Mayor Milo inquired if the old bus will need to be demolished as it was purchased with CMAQ Funds. Mr. MacLennan stated actually the buses are leased through NIRPC at \$1.00 per year per bus. The bus will be returned to NIRPC who will sell it and the City will receive credit towards our Federal funding. Mr. MacLennan reported the bus that will be taken out of commission is not the oldest bus but will be the one that is costing the most money in repairs. Mr. Turner inquired if Transit drivers fall under CDL or chauffer license guidelines. Mr. MacLennan reported because of the size of the buses they all have public passenger licenses; which falls under DOT guidelines and includes random drug tests.

Engineering: Mr. Clingerman reported the Board of Public Works and Safety approved a quote to have the overpass lights replaced. Because of the condition of the current lights, the contract stipulated the old lights be removed immediately. Mr. Clingerman advised the contractor will be removing the old lights tomorrow. He stated he expects it should take approximately four hours for the removal. INDOT and the Police Department have been notified, as one lane of traffic will be closed during the removal. The Police Department will contact 911.

City Attorney: Mr. Baugher requested the Board set an executive session following next week's meeting to discuss litigation. He further requested Mr. Taylor be in attendance. Mayor Milo reported there is a conflict with next week's meeting as both herself and the Clerk-Treasurer will be attending an IACT Conference and will not be available until Thursday. Mayor Milo stated if both Board members are in agreement, she requested the Board meeting be moved to Thursday.

Motion/Vote – Move Board of Works Meeting to Thursday

Mr. Krentz moved the Board of Works meeting for next week be moved to Thursday, January 12, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. with an executive session to follow regarding litigation; motion seconded by Mr. Turner and unanimously carried.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Mr. Turner moved to adjourn; motion seconded by Mr. Krentz and unanimously carried.

Approved: _____
Blair E. Milo, Mayor

Attest: _____
Teresa L. Ludlow, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: January 12, 2012