

Regular Board of Works Meeting In Person and Hybrid/Zoom on September 15, 2025

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session on Monday, September 15, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, City of Michigan City, on Hybrid/ Zoom and streamed live on the "Access LaPorte County" Facebook page.

The meeting was called to order by President Skyler York

On the call of roll, the following Board Members were found to be present or absent.

Noted present in person: Candice Antisdell, Tamiko Smith, Gene Simmons, Peggy Moore, Skyler York (5)

Absent: None (0)

Also noted in attendance:

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich; Izabelle Galvin Ellis, Clerk of the Board of Works; Deputy Attorney Ryan Beall; Wendy Vachet, Public Works Director; D'Marcus Briscoe, Code Enforcement Manager; Captain Greg Jesse, Michigan City Police Department; Melisha Henderson, Human Resources Director; Chief Barrett Taylor, Michigan City Fire Department; Chief Steve Forker, Michigan City Police Department; Deputy Chief Frank Rebac, Michigan City Fire Department; Phil Graf, Michigan City Acting Forester; Robin Tillman, Transit Director; Tim Werner, City Engineer; Andrew Matanic, IT Director; Councilman Don Przybylinski; Drew White, ALCO.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Moore made a motion to approve the September 2, 2025 minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdell, Smith, Simmons, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Proposals

Request for proposals for Tree Watering – Spring 2026 (Federal Tree Grant).

Phil Graf, Michigan City acting Forester, addressed the Board explaining that this RFP is for the watering of the 500 trees the City will be planting this Fall and the watering will be starting in the Spring of 2026, from May 15th to September 30th; further stating that tree removal started this week of the 350 trees that are a potential high-risk.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve Request for Proposals for Tree Watering, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdel, Smith, Simmons, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Special Purchase

The Michigan City Fire Department requested the special purchase of one (1) 2022 Dodge Durango that is currently being leased by the MCFD and buy it out for a total amount of \$19,569.00.

Deputy Chief Frank Rebac, Michigan City Fire Department, addressed the Board stating that this is currently the only leased vehicle in their fleet and have budgeted for it.

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio St., made a comment.

Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve the special purchase of the 2022 Dodge Durango, seconded by Mrs. Moore and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdel, Smith, Simmons, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Special Purchase

The Michigan City Police Department requested the special purchase of one (1) 2022 Dodge Durango that is fully equipped and outfitted with the necessary police emergency equipment from LaPorte Chrysler, that is currently being leased by Pottawatomie Park, for a total amount of \$23,251.28.

Chief Steve Forker, Michigan City Police Department, addressed the Board stating that the vehicle is currently being leased by Pottawatomie Park Police Department and currently only has 9,820 miles on it, and once their lease is finished, we will purchase the vehicle at the lease buyout cost and have it upfitted with our logos; further stating the vehicle is currently outfitted and equipped for police.

Mr. Simmons asked if it was a take-home vehicle, and Chief Forker said yes.

Mrs. Smith asked if this vehicle has been budgeted, and Chief Forker said yes, it's been budgeted through the Cigarette Tax Fund.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the special purchase of the 2022 Dodge Durango, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdel, Smith, Simmons, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Special Purchase

The Michigan City Transit Department requested the special purchase of two (2) new buses (brand-Turtle Top Terra Transit HD – Ford F550) through ABC Bus, Inc. in the amount of \$377,610.54.

Robin Tillman, Transit Director, addressed the Board explaining the purchases of new buses, stating the new buses are smaller and will be better for our smaller roads and navigating our city; further explaining that these buses will be replacing two (2) buses that have reached their life term under federal standards.

Mrs. Moore asked why we are purchasing the buses, and Mrs. Tillman explained that this is a bus replacement for their fixed route service.

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio St., made a comment.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment.

Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve the special purchase of the two (2) new transit buses, seconded by President York and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdell, Smith, Simmons, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Approval to Declare Certain Computer Equipment as Surplus

The Michigan City IT Department requested that certain computer equipment be declared surplus.

Andrew Matanic, IT Director, addressed the Board stating that the IT Department has a large surplus of computer equipment that is no longer useful, and that the summer interns and an IT technician went through all the equipment and data to confirm that there is no important information on them; further stating that there are 46 pallets and thousands of surplus equipment.

Mrs. Smith asked how many items there are, and Mr. Matanic stated that there are thousands and thousands of items, from small to large.

Mrs. Moore asked where everything had been stored, and Mr. Matanic stated throughout the departments.

President York made a motion to approve the presented computer equipment as surplus, seconded by Mrs. Antisdell and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdell, Smith, Simmons, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Online Auction Services

The Michigan City IT Department requests that the City approve a contract with Liquidity Services Operations LLC (GovDeals) to conduct online auctions for surplus computer equipment.

Andrew Matanic, IT Director, addressed the Board stating that GovDeals is a major auction company that works with municipalities to help sell and auction off equipment and it is vetted by the State of Indiana to auction off government items; further stating

that the items would be sold by pallet and they have been shrink wrapped for them to go to auction.

Mr. Matanic stated that GovDeals only charges a buyer's premium, explaining that if a pallet is sold for \$250 then the City gets \$250 and there are no listing fees and zero cost for the City; further stating that if the City would need to utilize this service in the future they could.

Mrs. Moore asked who would be picking up the items after purchase, and Mr. Matanic stated that it would be the purchaser.

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio St., made a comment.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the contract with GovDeals, seconded by Mrs. Moore and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdel, Smith, Simmons, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Change of Duty Shirts

The Michigan City Fire Department is requesting to wear their annual Breast Cancer Awareness shirts as duty shirts from October 1, 2025 through October 31, 2025.

Chief Barrett Taylor, Michigan City Fire Department, addressed the Board explaining this will be their Breast Cancer Awareness shirt that would be worn during the month of October and will be available for sale to the public; further explaining that the money will be donated to local breast cancer awareness charity.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment.

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio St., made a comment.

Chief Taylor stated that it is in their contract that they have to go before the Board to have this approved.

Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve the request for change of duty shirts, seconded by Mrs. Antisdel and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdel, Smith, Simmons, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Traffic Control

Denise Blau, 211 Superior St., requested the following:

- Parking on one side of the street on Superior St.
- A speed bump on Superior St. to stop people from speeding down the road.

Denise Blau, 211 Superior St., addressed the Board explaining the issues with cars on both sides on the street, stating that it makes it hard to turn onto the street and get down

with cars on both sides of the street, especially in the 100 block and during summertime.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, addressed the Board stating that the streets are not wide enough for two-way traffic and parking on both sides. Discussion ensued between Mr. Werner, President York and Mr. Simmons on parking on both sides of the street and issues with emergency vehicles getting down the road.

Captain Greg Jesse, Michigan City Police Department, addressed the Board stating that there is yellow striping on the South side of the intersection on Franklin St, and a ticket was written for somebody who was parked in that area.

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio St., made a comment.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment.

Mrs. Blau made a comment.

Mrs. Moore asked for parking to not be as close to Franklin St. due to not being able to turn onto Superior St. from people parking on both sides and somebody trying to turn off Superior St. onto Franklin St.

Mrs. Moore asked if we can confirm if emergency personnel can get down the street.

Mrs. Smith asked about the signage on Superior St. from the old business at the corner of Franklin St. and Superior St.

President York made a motion to remove the loading signage at the old business if it's in the right-of-way, to make sure that both sides of Superior St. are legibly striped yellow at the distance we require from the standpoint of the City requirements, and to make sure that a firetruck can get through the road if cars are parked on both sides of the road, seconded by Mrs. Moore and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdel, Smith, Simmons, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Mrs. Smith made a motion to deny the request for a speed bump on Superior St., seconded by Mrs. Antisdel and was denied with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdel, Smith, Simmons, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

President York made a motion to table the parking on one side of the street until confirmation that a firetruck can navigate safely down the street, seconded by Mrs. Antisdel and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdel, Smith, Simmons, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Traffic Signage

Robert Dunn, 1410 Larain Dr., requested the following:

- A stop sign at the intersection of Welnetz Rd. and Larain Dr.
- A street sign indicating Larain Drive for postal workers and visitors to access the road easily.

Robert Dunn, 1410 Larain Dr., addressed the Board explaining his issues with the traffic at Larain Dt. And Welnetz Rd.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, addressing the Board stating that this is a County issue and not a City issue because it's a private drive.

Mr. Dunn stated that the County told them that they would have to contact the City.

President York and Corporate Counsel Lapaich stated that the Street Director had reached out to the County and they stated that Larain Dr. is a private drive and not under the City's jurisdiction so there is no need for a vote.

Request for Traffic Control

Matt Cipolla, 156 Mayfield Drive, is requesting the following:

- Two (2) speed bumps near Paladin at the old Niemann Elementary School, one on Royal Rd. and one on Tryon Rd, to slow down traffic and trucks or to lower the speed limit in that area to 20 miles per hour.
- Construction zones to be posted and have a construction speed limit of 20 miles per hour.

Matt Cipolla, 156 Mayfield Dr., addressed the Board asking to either lower the speed limit or add speed bumps due to a speeding problem in that area; further stating that he has evidence of people speeding and that the police need help.

Captain Greg Jesse, Michigan City Police Department, addressed the Board stating that our patrol officers have been out there and did not see any accidents in that area; further explaining that it is an enforcement issue and doesn't think that reducing the speed limit will help.

Mr. Simmons made a comment recommending slowing down the speed limit to 20 miles per hour and concurs that there is a speeding issue there.

Discussion ensued between Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Moore and Captain Jesse on it being an enforcement issue even if the speed limit was lowered.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, recommends lowering the speed limit to 20 miles per hour and seeing if it helps, and if not we will bring it back to 30 miles per hour.

Mrs. Antisdell recommends putting the radar on the road.

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio St., made a comment.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment.

Discussion ensued with President York, Mrs. Smith and Captain Jesse on enforcement in the area and when we can have more enforcement.

Mrs. Antisdel made a motion to deny the request for speed bumps, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was denied with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdel, Smith, Simmons, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Mrs. Antisdel made a motion to deny changing the speed limit to 20 miles per hour, and requested to have the speed radar in that area and have additional tickets written with more enforcement, seconded Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdel, Smith, Simmons, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

President York made a motion to revisit the request on the October 20, 2025 Board meeting, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdel, Smith, Simmons, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Approval of Findings Fact Order

Approval of findings of fact order for 1605 Franklin Street.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that at the last Board meeting the Board made certain motions in regard to 1605 Franklin St. pursuant to the demolition order, and she had to reduce them to findings of fact in writing; further stating that the Board would have to approve the findings of fact.

Mrs. Moore made a motion to approve the findings of fact order for 1605 Franklin St., seconded by Mrs. Antisdel and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdel, Smith, Simmons, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Sidewalk & Parking Space Closure for Construction

Fernando Patino, Undefeated Construction, is requesting a sidewalk closure and the closure of two (2) parking spots in front of 1605 and 1607 Franklin St. for the debris removal and preservation work of 1605 Franklin St. from approximately September 16, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

Madam Clerk Izabelle Galvin Ellis stated that she had never received the updated request forms with Fernando Peino's business name to match his COI, and also never received an updated COI.

Werner Graf, 1605 Franklin St., made a comment.

Wendy Vachet, Public Works Director, addressed the Board explaining the need for auto insurance and requirements for closing a public right of way.

Mrs. Moore asked Mr. Werner when his plan would be submitted and discussion ensued between Mrs. Moore and Mr. Werner on his timeline of the project.

Mrs. Vachet stated that the sidewalk must be closed due to the building being unsafe and a detour must be made for the sidewalk closure.

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio St., made a comment.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment.

Paul Przybylinski made a comment.

Madam Clerk Izabelle Galvin Ellis and Corporate Counsel Lapaich stated that we have not received either an application or the Certificate of Insurance, so there will be no action taken today on this request.

Request for Lane Closure

The Lubeznik Center for the Arts and the City of Michigan City is requesting a lane closure on September 30th at 12 p.m. for approximately one (1) hour for the official dedication and gifting of the Hitachi/Sullair Mural to the City.

President York stated that this closure would be for the safety of people attending the event, and there wouldn't be anything set up for the closure.

President York stated that the City is being gifted a maintenance fund of \$5,000 that will go into an account that is already established for the Michigan City Art Commission, and these funds will be specifically marked for maintenance on this mural.

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio St., made a comment.

Mrs. Moore made a motion to approve the lane closure, seconded by Mrs. Antisdal and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdal, Smith, Simmons, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Payroll Claims Docket

Payroll Docket	September 5, 2025	\$769,715.86
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Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve the payroll claims docket as presented, seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdel, Smith, Simmons, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Claims Docket

September 15, 2025

Municipal	\$1,354,007.21
CDBG	\$44,551.35
Health & Life	\$116,061.70
Special Events	\$400.00
Zoo Casino Agreement	\$0.00
Workers Comp	\$0.00
ARP Local Fiscal Recovery	\$84,420.16
TOTAL CLAIMS:	\$1,599,440.42

Mrs. Antisdel made a motion to approve the claims docket as presented, seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdel, Smith, Simmons, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Policy & Procedure Updates – Unfinished Business

The Human Resources department requested to update the policies and procedures manual:

- Update Policy #318: Health & Welfare Benefits
- Update Policy #505: Tobacco Use

This was tabled from September 2, 2025.

Melisha Henderson, HR Director, addressed the Board asking to remove Policy #505 from the agenda due to the ordinance that needs to go through the City Council.

President York made a motion to remove Update Policy #505 from the Pending Items List, seconded by Mrs. Antisdel and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdel, Smith, Simmons, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Mrs. Henderson recommended that Policy #318 stay updated with the 30-day from time of hire policy; further explaining that after speaking with our insurance brokers this is the best way to do the policy.

Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve updates to Policy #318: Health & Welfare Benefits as presented, seconded by Mrs. Antisdel and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdel, Smith, Simmons, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Sign Repair – Unfinished Business

Councilman Don Przybylinski is requesting the following items:

- Reconstruction of the stop sign guard rail triangle at the corner of Chicago St., 10th St. and Kentucky St.

Tabled from July 7, 2025.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, stated that the Street Department has completed this project; further stating that the guard rails have been removed, a stop sign has been added and street markings have been made on the road.

Mrs. Moore made a motion to remove the request from the pending items list, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdel, Smith, Simmons, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Signage or Striping – Unfinished Business

Nancy Cross, 501 Pearl St., is requesting striping or signage to stop people from parking either partially or fully on the sidewalk that is on the Northside of Elston from Lafayette St. to Spring St. Tabled from July 21, 2025.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, addressed the Board stating that he has not discussed this with our Street Director and asked to wait until the next Board meeting.

President York stated that Captain Jesse had been out there and provided evidence of the cars parking on the sidewalk, although there is barely a curb so understands how somebody could park on the sidewalk.

President York requested to table the request until the October 6, 2025 meeting, seconded by Mrs. Moore and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdel, Smith, Simmons, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

CSX Repairs Updates – Unfinished Business

Updates on the repairs of the Buffalo St. crossings. Tabled from January 21, 2025.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, addressed the Board stating that he had reached out to CSX and a representative said that an engineer would be contacting him to get this intersection on their schedule; further stating that if he doesn't hear from them by the end of the week, he will follow up on Monday.

President York made a motion to table the request to the October 6, 2025 meeting for a report back from Engineer Werner, seconded by Mrs. Antisdell and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdell, Smith, Simmons, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Awarding of Bid – Unfinished Business

Awarding of bid for the demolition of 901 Manhattan St. Tabled from July 7, 2025.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that there is no update at this time and gave background of the property; further explaining that the property is in receivership in the state of Pennsylvania, there is bankruptcy in the state of New York and the trustee for the bankruptcy has indicated that they plan on abandoning the property but the order has not been issued yet. She further explained that the Board can still proceed with the demolition under our Police Powers and Public Health and Safety Powers but we can't lien the property without the approval of the bankruptcy trustee.

Corporate Counsel Lapaich stated that there is a risk of the City not seeing our money back on this property; further explaining that the lowest bid for the demolition was Green Demolition in the amount of \$18,800 and asked for the Board to table until the first meeting in November.

Corporate Counsel Lapaich stated that Tommy Kulavik informed her that the property is on the tax sale for La Porte County this October 7, 2025 due to them being delinquent in their property taxes in the amount of \$5,695.60.

Wendy Vachet, Public Works Director, addressed the Board stating that she supports Corporate Counsel Lapaich and asks for the delay on approval of the demolition because we don't want to expend our funds and not be able to get any of the money back.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, asked if there is a term limit on the bids, and Corporate Counsel Lapaich stated no but will be reaching out to the bidders to make sure the bid is still valid once it's time to demo.

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio St., made a comment.

Mrs. Antisdell made a motion to table the awarding of bid to the November 3, 2025 meeting, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdell, Smith, Simmons, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Public Comment

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio St., made a comment about shoes on utility lines, reminded the public about the old coal shoot being torn down this week and that there are only two (2) more Saturday markets left of the season in town.

Councilman Don Przybylinski made a comment about the railroad ties that need to be picked up on Buffalo St. along with the repairs that need to be done, asking the City Engineer to follow up on that as well.

Matt Cipolla, 156 Mayfield Drive, made a comment about the speed limits on Tryon Rd. and Royal Rd., stating that the radar is a great idea for the area.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment stating that they should do a truck speed limit in that area and thanked the Madam Clerk for having the pending items on the back on the agenda.

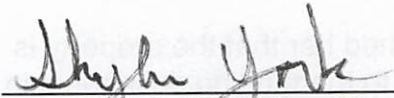
Mr. Meland also made an announcement that the Cellar Door bar & grill is now open!

Mr. Simmons made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Antisdel and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdel, Smith, Simmons, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Adjourned at 6:21 p.m.



Skyler York, BOW President



Izabelle Galvin Ellis, BOW Clerk