

Regular Board of Works Meeting In Person and Hybrid/Zoom on February 2, 2026

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session on Monday, February 2, 2026 at 8:30 a.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 Board President Candice Antisdell.

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

Noted present in person: Candice Antisdell, Gene Simmons, Tamiko Smith, Peggy Moore and Patrick Voltz (5)

Absent: None (0)

Also noted in attendance:

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich; Izabelle Galvin Ellis, BOW Clerk; Ryan Beal, Deputy City Attorney; Eric Williams, Assistant Director for Special Events; Captain Greg Jesse, Michigan City Police Department; D'Marcus Briscoe, Code Enforcement Manager; Wendy Vachet, Public Works Director; Chief Barrett Taylor, Michigan City Fire Department; Tim Werner, City Engineer; Darrel Garbacik, Central Maintenance Superintendent; Terry Greetham, Special Events Director; Mayor Angie; Shong Smith, Street Director; David Albers, Building Superintendent; Drew White, ALCO.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Moore made a motion to approve the January 20, 2026 minutes as presented; seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

CCMG 2024-1 Completion

Certificate of final completion, approval and acceptance of work for CCMG 2024-1.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich addressed the Board, stating that our City Engineer has sent the certificate and necessary paperwork over to the City for the final completion of the CCMG 2024-1 paving project that was completed in June 2025.

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the CCMG 2024-1 completion; seconded by Mr. Simmons, and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

CCMG 2025-1 Competition

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that this is the completion paperwork for the CCMG 2025-1, similar to the CCMG 2024-1 completion paperwork; further stating that the date of issuance for completion was November 14, 2025.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the CCMG 2025-1 completion; seconded by Mrs. Smith, and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Contract

Extension of contract with ACTIN Contracting, LLC for the demolition of 120 W Custer Ave, which was awarded on July 7, 2025, in the amount of \$12,700.00.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich addressed the Board explaining the extension of contract for ACTIN Contracting, LLC, stating that they were not notified of the original awarding of the bid when it was awarded in July 2025; further stating that the contract had extension language to allow the City to extend the contract for ACTIN to complete the demolition work, for which ACTIN was still willing to do the work.

Mrs. Smith stated that the City has encumbered the funds for the demolition from last year, so the funds for this project will not affect this year's budget.

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

Corporate Counsel Lapaich stated that the house at 904 Elston St., which was also bid out to be demolished, is currently on pause for the awarding of a contract due to it being reviewed by the City's Planning Department and it being sold on sheriff sale from the County.

Mr. Simmons asked if there is a timeline, and Corporate Counsel Lapaich stated that she does not know if the Planning Department has a timeline at this time.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

Contract

Agreement to extend the 2025 Union contract between the City of Michigan City and the Fraternal Order of Police Dunes Lodge #75 through 2026.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that this extension of the 2025 FOP contract is to include the two percent (2%) raise that all City employees received.

Mr. Simmons asked if the Police Department is currently at full strength, and Captain Greg Jesse, Michigan City Police Department, stated that he does not know at the moment but will look into it.

Mrs. Moore asked if this contract needed to go before the City Council, and Corporate Counsel Lapaich stated that it was already approved by the City Council.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the extension of the 2025 FOP contract; seconded by Mrs. Smith, and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Fire Merit Nominations

The Michigan City Fire Department is requesting to open nominations for its Democratic pick to the Fire Merit Commission.

Chief Barret Taylor, Michigan City Fire Department, addressed the Board requesting to open nominations for a Democratic candidate for the Fire Merit Commission.

Discussion ensued between Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich, Madam Clerk Izabelle Galvin Ellis, and Chief Taylor on the closing of nominations, and it was decided that nominations would be closed at the February 16, 2026, Board meeting.

Special Purchase Request

Michigan City Central Maintenance is requesting the Special Purchase under Emergency Conditions (pursuant to I.C. 5-22-10-4) of a six-post lift due to an ongoing emergency caused by multiple failing hoists in the shop. The lift will be purchased from SLE Technologies for a total amount not to exceed \$83,302.07.

Darrell Garbacik, Central Maintenance Superintendent, told the Board that the current lift is 30 years old and has become difficult to maintain.

Mr. Voltz asked if the new lift will have the same capacity as the old one. Mr. Garbacik stated that the new lift will have improved capacity and technology.

Mrs. Smith asked how long it would take to install the replacement lift. Mr. Garbacik stated that the goal would be a couple of weeks for installation once received, but he does not have an exact answer. Mrs. Smith stated that the approval should be contingent upon the approval of a transfer resolution.

Mr. Simmons asked if they are currently outsourcing. Mr. Garbacik stated not exclusively, as some tasks exceed their capacity and must be outsourced, such as certain equipment and diagnostics.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the new lift installation.

Mr. Simmons amended his motion to include that the new lift installation be dependent upon Council approval; seconded by Mrs. Smith, and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Request for City Easement

NIPSCO is requesting an easement for Vegetation Maintenance on City-owned property in order for NIPSCO to safely maintain its overhead powerlines to be installed on the property south of 402 Royal Rd.

Ms. Vachet addressed the Board, explaining that this request has gone before the Sanitary Board and was approved at their last meeting.

“How close would this be to the fence line of the North golf course?” Ms. Vachet stated that it is just north of the Project Maize site, at the extension of Springland Avenue, if that project proceeds.

Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve; Mr. Voltz seconded the motion, and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

CONTRACT

Contract between the City of Michigan City and Sera Group for website development in the amount of \$5,070.00 and for managed website hosting for \$1,200.00 for the Michigan City Municipal Airport website.

Corporate Counsel Lapaich explained that this money will be coming out of City funds.

Mrs. Smith commented that Sera Group has been working on our website, as they are not new to us, and they are doing great work, so she supports this.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

Claims Docket:

February 2, 2026

Municipal	\$2,673,198.57
CDBG	\$0.00
Health & Life	\$680,759.91
Special Events	\$0.00
Zoo Casino Agreement	\$0.00
Workers Comp	\$9,000.00
ARP Local Fiscal Recovery	\$0.00
TOTAL CLAIMS:	\$3,362,958.48

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the claims docket; seconded by Ms. Moore and approved with the following vote

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

NAYS: (0) None

Payroll Claims Docket

Payroll Docket	January 23, 2026	\$772,244.38
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Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the payroll claims docket; seconded by Ms. Antisdell and approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Unfinished Business

Request for Railroad Repair

Councilman Don Przybylinski is requesting an update on the cleanup of CSX railroad ties along Arthur St. and the repairs of the CSX railroad crossing at Buffalo St. Tabled from November 3, 2025.

Mayor Angie stated that she sent a letter to the U.S. Senators' office, as well as to State Senator Rodney Pol and State Rep. Randy Novak. The State Senator and State Rep. responded with contacts, but the U.S. Senators' office has not responded.

Ms. Moore made a motion to table it until the next meeting; seconded by Ms. Antisdell and approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Public Comment

Mr. Kulavick (1316 Ohio St.) made a comment that the traffic signal at the intersection of County Road 400 North and the Cleveland Avenue extension has been blinking red for the last two weeks.

Captain Jesse stated that they are short five officers, but he will look into that.

Mayor Angie stated that the Police Department currently has 79 officers, while 84 is the full complement; stating that the City has already extended an offer to one candidate, a lateral transfer, and that they will likely reach full complement within this year—the closest the City has been to having 80 officers.

Mayor Angie extended the City's condolences to the family of Steve Garner.

Mayor Angie made a comment that this will be the last meeting with Izabelle Galvin Ellis as Board of Works Clerk for the City of Michigan City, and Gianna Galante as the new Board of Works Clerk.

Mr. Werner made a comment that it needs to be clarified that 400 North was turned over to the county in 2023; stating that the City had a prior contract to maintain the signals with Midwest Electric contractor to service all the signals in town; advising the City removed that signal because it is now a county road. Mr. Werner stated he will get together with Corporate Counsel Lapaich to clarify this.

Board Comment

Mr. Simmons and Ms. Antisdell congratulated Ms. Galvin Ellis on her new position.

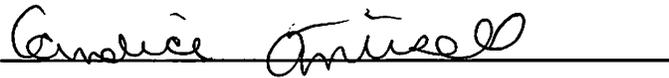
Ms. Antisdell thanked Mayor Angie for the Boards and Commissions workshop.

Mrs. Smith made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Ms. Antisdell and approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 a.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Candice Antisdell", written over a horizontal line.

BOW President, Candice Antisdell

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gianna Galante", written over a horizontal line.

BOW Clerk, Gianna Galante