



VCU Board of Directors

President

John S. Walsh

Vice President

Kari Bennett

Secretary

Rod Gayda

Treasurer

Tom Gooding

Assistant Secretary

Jeff Lamb

Attorney

Michael Langer

Leadership Team

**Executive Director of
Public Works & Utilities**

Steve Poulos

**Deputy City Services
Director**

Matt Zurbruggen

VCU Chief Financial Officer

Carla Platipodis

**VCU Operations &
Maintenance Director**

Shihua Chen

VCU Field Services Director

Nate McGinley

Engineering Director

Max Rehlander

**Assistant VCU
Collections/Distribution
Manager**

Mike Steege

WRD Superintendent

Paul Scott

VCS Public Works Manager

Katie Travis

**VCS Executive
Administrator**

Jackie Algozine

**GIS Coordinator &
Database Administrator**

Emily Reyna

**VALPARAISO CITY UTILITIES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES**

February 10, 2026

The Valparaiso City Utilities Board Meeting was called to order by Vice President Kari Bennett at 5:00 pm on February 10, 2026, with the following attendees: Secretary Rod Gayda, Treasurer Tom Gooding, Assistant Secretary Jeff Lamb and VCU Attorney Mike Langer via phone. Additional participants were Executive Director of Public Works & Utilities Steve Poulos, Deputy City Services Director Matt Zurbruggen, CFO Carla Platipodis, Maintenance Director Shihua Chen, VCU Field Services Director Nate McGinley, Engineering Director Max Rehlander, VCS Executive Administrator Jackie Algozine and City Council Member Peter Anderson.

➤ **Approval of Minutes from January 27, 2026, Board Meeting**

- Rod Gayda motioned to approve the January 27, 2026, Board Minutes, seconded by Tom Gooding. The remaining members approved the motion.

➤ **Approval of Claims**

- Rod Gayda motioned to approve the claims, seconded by Tom Gooding. The remaining members approved the motion.

➤ **Approval to Write Off Stale Dated Checks**

- Carla Platipodis requested approval for stale dated checks. Rod Gayda motioned to approve the write off of stale dated checks seconded by Tom Gooding and the remaining members approved the motion.

➤ **January 2026 Journal Entries**

- Rod Gayda motioned to approve the January 2026 Journal Entries seconded by Jeff Lamb, and the remaining members approved the motion.

➤ **December 2025 Financials**

- Rod Gayda made a motion to approve the December 2025 Financials. Tom Gooding seconded the motion, and the motion was approved by the remaining members.

➤ **WW SRF Disbursement #89- Bowen Engineering \$456,559**

- Steve Poulos presented WW SRF Disbursement #89 for Bowen Engineering in the amount of \$456,559. A motion was made by Rod Gayda to approve WW SRF Disbursement #89 in the amount of \$456,559. Tom Gooding seconded the motion, and the motion was approved by the remaining members.

➤ **WW SRF Disbursement #90- Stantec Engineering \$24,498**

- Steve Poulos presented WW SRF Disbursement #90 for Stantec Engineering in the amount of \$24,498. A motion was made by Rod Gayda to approve WW SRF Disbursement #90 in the amount of \$24,498. Tom Gooding seconded the motion, and the motion was approved by the remaining members.

➤ **WW SRF Disbursement #91- Mendenhall & Associates \$1,500**

- Steve Poulos presented WW SRF Disbursement #91 for Mendenhall & Associates in the amount of \$1,500. A motion was made by Rod Gayda to approve WW SRF Disbursement #91 in the amount of \$1,500. Tom Gooding seconded the motion, and the motion was approved by the remaining members.

➤ **WW SRF Disbursement #92- DLZ Engineering \$9,120**

- Steve Poulos presented WW SRF Disbursement #92 for DLZ Engineering in the amount of \$9,120. A motion was made by Rod Gayda to approve WW SRF Disbursement #92 in the amount of \$9,120. Tom Gooding seconded the motion, and the motion was approved by the remaining members.

➤ **DW SRF Disbursement #74- Bowen Engineering \$155,372**

- Steve Poulos presented DW SRF Disbursement #74 for Bowen Engineering in the amount of \$155,372. A motion was made by Rod Gayda to approve DW SRF Disbursement #74 in the amount of \$155,372. Tom Gooding seconded the motion, and the motion was approved by the remaining members.

➤ **Purchase of a Pick-Up Truck**

- Shihua Chen requested to replace the 2016 GMC Sierra 2500 truck with a 2026 Ford F250 ¾-ton truck. Four quotes were received and the recommendation to the VCU Board is to approve the purchase of the 2026 Ford F250 truck from Gaff Ford for the amount of \$45,100.00. Funding for this purchase is available in 2026 Water Treatment CIP budget. A motion was made by Rod Gayda to approve the purchase of the 2026 Ford 250 for the amount of \$45,100.0. Tom Gooding seconded the motion, and the motion was approved by the remaining members.

Dealer	Make/Model	Bid Price (\$)
Graff Ford	2026 Ford F250	\$45,100.00
Currie Ford	2026 Ford F250	\$50,510.00
Currie Chevy	2026 Chevy 2500 HD	\$51,140.00
Currie GMC	2026 GMC Sierra 2500 HD	\$51,515.00

➤ **Franciscan Health Valparaiso Contractor Water Agreement**

- Nate McGinley presented a request for approval for the Franciscan Health Valparaiso contract for the Valparaiso City Utilities Water Department and the contractor, GE Marshall, Inc. GE Marshall agrees to furnish all materials, tools, equipment, labor and other services necessary to complete the project in accordance with VCU Water Department specifications and plans for the amount of \$451,572.80, to be completed within 365 calendar days from the start of the project. Jeff Lamb made a motion to accept the Franciscan Health Valparaiso contract in the amount of \$451,572.80, Tom Gooding seconded the motion, and the motion was approved by the remaining members.

➤ **Franciscan Health Valparaiso Developer Water Agreement**

- Nate McGinley presented a request for approval for the Franciscan Health Valparaiso contract for the Valparaiso City Utilities Water Department and the developer, Franciscan Health Michigan City. Franciscan Health Michigan City agrees to have their contractor; GE Marshall install specified water mains in the amount of \$496,730.08 with an estimated completion date of February 2027. Jeff Lamb made a motion to accept the Franciscan Health Valparaiso contract in the amount of \$496,730.08, Tom Gooding seconded the motion, and the motion was approved by the remaining members.

➤ **Meridian Road Force Main Relocation Project, Division A – Change Order #1**

- Nate McGinley presented change order #1 for the Meridian Road Force Main Relocation Project in the decreased amount of \$39,994.74. The decrease is due to Porter County providing traffic control and meeting the terms quoted in the contract. Tom Gooding made a motion to accept change order #1 for the Meridian Road Force Main Relocation Project in the decreased amount of \$39,994.74. Rod Gayda seconded the motion, and the remaining members approved the motion.

➤ **Institute Street Water Main Improvements – Request Permission to Publicly Advertise for Bids**

- Nate McGinley presented the proposal to request permission to publicly advertise for bids for the Institute Street main improvement project. This project would replace approximately 830 LFT of 6" water main that services area residents, Kirchhoff Park, and Parkview Elementary School. The request is based on the fact that this area has experienced seven main breaks with three of those main breaks happening in the last five years. VCU has funding available within the Water Distribution Capital Aging Infrastructure budget for 2026. Rod Gayda made a motion to approve the request to publicly advertise for bids for the Institute Street main improvement project and Jeff Lamb seconded the motion. The remaining members approved the motion.

➤ **CC3R Production Well - Peerless Midwest**

- Matt Zurbruggen presented a contract with Peerless Midwest for drilling a 20-inch production well, designated as CC3R at the Valparaiso Country Club (VCC). CC3R has been tested and has shown to be a viable option for a replacement for the aging CC3 well that was installed in the early 90's. Peerless has provided a proposal for this work to include:

• Permitting	\$8,550.00
• Well Drilling & Production	\$210,000.00
• <u>Pump Equipment</u>	<u>\$75,000.00</u>
Total	\$293,550.00

VCS recommends proceeding with Peerless Midwest for a total of \$293,550 permit, drill, and purchase the pumping equipment for the CC3R production well. Staff request approval contingent upon submission and approval of the revised PER to SRF, and once a MOU is signed by VCU and VCC. Rod Gayda made a motion to approve Peerless Midwest for a total of \$293,550 permit, drill, and purchase the pumping equipment for the CC3R production well contingent upon submission and approval of the revised PER to SRF, and once a MOU is signed by VCU and VCC. Tom Gooding seconded the motion, and the remaining members approved the motion.

➤ **Parks 2 & 3 Production Wells - Peerless Midwest**

- Matt Zurbruggen presented a contract with Peerless Midwest for drilling 2, 24-inch production wells, designated as Parks 2 and Parks 3 at the RDC/Parks Property at 500 N. Peerless has provided a proposal for 2 production wells. This work is to include:

• Permitting	\$17,100.00
• Well Drilling & Production	\$440,000.00
• <u>Pump Equipment</u>	<u>\$175,000.00</u>
Total	\$632,100.00

VCS recommends proceeding with Peerless Midwest for the drilling and development of the production wells for a total of \$632,100 to permit, drill, and purchase the pumping equipment for the Parks 2 and Parks 3 production wells. Rod Gayda made a motion to approve Peerless Midwest for the drilling and development of the production wells for a total of \$632,100 to permit, drill, and purchase the pumping equipment. Jeff Lamb seconded the motion, and remaining members approved the motion.

➤ **Park Wells – Design Request- Barkley Rule**

- Matt Zurbruggen presented Park Wells after a request to the VCU Board to invoke the Barkley Rule (adding this agenda item during the VCU Board Meeting). Jeff Lamb made a motion to approve the Barkley Rule for Park Wells-Design Request to be added to the February 10, 2026, VCU Board Agenda, Tom Gooding seconded the motion, and the remaining members approved the motion. VCU recently contracted with a consultant to design a transmission water main that will deliver water from the Park/RDC property at 500 N and SR 49 to the Flint Lake Water Treatment Plant. In coordination with VCU's hydrogeologist, VCU plans to construct three wells at the Park/RDC property in the near future and subsequently requested proposals for design services for these wells. As VCU prepares to complete the financial analysis and request funding for the Park wells and associated transmission line, approval is requested to proceed with design services for the three planned Park wells. The full design proposal includes surveying, design, permitting, geotechnical services, and construction administration for the well house and associated equipment. Proposals were solicited from two consultants:

• Arcadis	\$295,000.00
• DLZ	\$209,000.00

Following staff review of the proposals, it is recommended that the VCU Board approve the design contract with DLZ in the amount of \$209,000 for the Park Wells design. Jeff Lamb made a motion to approve the design contract with DLZ in the amount of \$209,000 for the Park Wells design, seconded by Tom Gooding and the remaining members approved the motion.

➤ **Water System Development Charge Proposal Baker Tilly**

- Steve Poulos presented the System Development Charges between Valparaiso Department of Waterworks, Indiana and Baker Tilly Advisory Group. The study will cost \$5000 for Baker Tilly to perform said services. Jeff Lamb made a motion to approve Baker Tilly Advisory Group to perform the study on aging infrastructure to the water side of the Valparaiso City Utility in the amount of \$5000, Tom Gooding seconded it and the remaining members approved the motion.

➤ **AT&T Addendum- Barley Rule**

- Steve Poulos presented the AT&T Addendum after a request to the VCU Board to invoke the Barkley Rule (adding this agenda item during the VCU Board Meeting). Jeff Lamb made a motion to approve the Barkley Rule for the AT&T Addendum to be added to the February 10, 2026, VCU Board Agenda. Tom Gooding seconded it, and the remaining members approved the motion. The request is to create an addendum that will allow AT&T to pay \$1,200 for (3) three additional antenna in addition to the six that are currently in their lease. Jeff Lamb made a motion to create a new addendum to the current AT&T lease for AT&T to pay \$1,200 for an additional 3 antenna. This motion will be subject to Attorney Mike Langer's approval of the newly written addendum. Rod Gayda seconded the motion, and the remaining members approved the motion.

Staff Reports:

- Matt Zurbruggen presented an update regarding the boring matter with the Railroad, the potential of a change order due to the extra work that may be performed and proposed timeline.

Next Board Meeting:

February 24, 2026

President

Secretary