

HAMMOND



The Nine Span Bridge in Hammond was built in 1935. | FILE-POST-TRIBUNE

Illinois firm wins \$18M contract to replace bridge

BY MATT MIKUS

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HAMMOND — The Nine Span Bridge on Indianapolis Boulevard is slated for demolition and replacement after the Indiana Department of Transportation awarded a contract Wednesday of almost \$18 million to an Illinois construction company.

Dunnet Bay Construction of Glendale Heights, Ill., will demolish and replace the bridge for \$17.99 million.

"That bridge is in need of replacement at this point," said Matt Deitchley, a spokesman for INDOT.

"Just like any kind of structure, it eventually needs to be replaced. That's where we're at with this bridge."

Construction is expected to begin in late December or early January, with completion scheduled for November. No set dates have been determined, and detour routes are under discussion.

Deitchley said starting dates and detour routes should be set by mid-December.

The bridge, south of the South Shore train station in East Chicago, near the border of Hammond and East Chicago, was built in 1935 and spans the Gibson Rail Yards.

Panel considers compensation for Hobart city employees

BY KAREN CAFFARINI

Post-Tribune correspondent

HOBART — The City Council on Wednesday established a three-member committee to work with the Teamsters union to revisit working conditions of city employees, including compensation.

"There's a lot we need to talk about. I want to take some definitive action after the first of the year," Mayor Brian Snedecor said.

Councilman John Brezik, D-5th, said the committee will probably be looking at more perks for employees, such as an additional holiday or vacation day, in lieu of a raise given the fact the city doesn't have much money to work with.

Council President Dave Vinzant, D-4th, said the city hasn't given employees raises for the last couple of years.

The committee will include Councilmen Mathew Claussen, D-at large, Jerry Herzog, D-1st, and P. Lino Maggio, D-3rd.

Brezik said the council works with the Teamsters because the union represents some city employees.

The council also adopted an ordinance that reflects some minor changes in the five district boundaries for the election of the council members. Brezik said there will be five or six changes altogether in precincts throughout the city.

He said municipalities are required to redistrict every 10 years to account for population shifts.

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