

In The Matter Of:
*BEFORE THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES*

*January 2, 2018
REGULAR MEETING*

*BOSS REPORTERS
Gary * Merrillville * Valparaiso, Indiana
3893 East Lincoln Highway (Rt. 30)
Merrillville, Indiana 46410
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1 STATE OF INDIANA)
2) SS:
3 COUNTY OF LAKE)

4 THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP BOARD
5 OF TRUSTEES
6 GARY, INDIANA

7 REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had at the meeting before
8 the Calumet Township Board of Trustees, reported by
9 Pamela S. Owen, CSR, RPR, and Notary Public, at the
10 Calumet Township Trustee Building, 610 Connecticut
11 Street, Gary, Indiana, on the 2nd day of January,
12 2018, at 5:09 in the evening.

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APPEARANCES:

Darren Washington, Board Chairman

Clorius Lay, Board Member

Mary Ann Canty-Reedus, Board Member/Secretary -

Absent

Sherita Smith, Chief Deputy

Denise Roberts, Deputy

Kimberly Robinson, Township Trustee

Romeka Bonds, Executive Secretary

Daryl D. Jones, Board Attorney

Rinzer Williams, III, Township Attorney

Members of the Public

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REGULAR MEETING

4

1 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Evening, Ladies and
2 Gentlemen. I'd like to invite you -- we call
3 the meeting of the Calumet Township Board of
4 Trustees to order on January 2nd, 2018. May we
5 stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

6 (Pledge of Allegiance recited.)

7 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: May we have a roll
8 call, Ms. Bonds.

9 MS. BONDS: Mr. Lay.

10 MR. LAY: Here.

11 MS. BONDS: Ms. Reedus.

12 (No response.)

13 MS. BONDS: Mr. Washington.

14 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Here.

15 There are two board members present and
16 one absent. We have enough form a quorum.

17 We would like to call the reorganization
18 of the Township Board based on Indiana Code
19 36-6-6-7, election of the chairman and the
20 secretary of the Calumet Township Board for the
21 fiscal year of 2018. At this time I would like
22 to make a motion to nominate Attorney
23 Clorius Lay to be chairman.

24 MR. LAY: A second is not necessary. If I
25 don't refuse it, it's not a matter of a second.

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1 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Roll call,
2 Miss Bonds.
3 MS. BONDS: Mr. Lay.
4 MR. LAY: Yes.
5 MS. BONDS: Mr. Washington.
6 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.
7 With two yes, one absent, congratulations,
8 Attorney Lay. Would you like to sit here, or
9 would you like to chair from there?
10 CHAIRMAN LAY: Doesn't matter. I can sit
11 here.
12 MR. WASHINGTON: Okay.
13 CHAIRMAN LAY: The next item on the agenda
14 would be the election of the secretary for the
15 board. Is there any nominations?
16 MR. WASHINGTON: I nominate Miss
17 Canty-Reedus.
18 CHAIRMAN LAY: Second, since she's not
19 here. It has been properly moved and seconded.
20 Are there any other nominations?
21 (No response.)
22 CHAIRMAN LAY: Are there any other
23 nominations?
24 (No response.)
25 CHAIRMAN LAY: Are there any other

1 nominations?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIRMAN LAY: Hearing none, seeing none,
4 nominations are closed. Roll call.

5 MS. BONDS: Mr. Lay.

6 CHAIRMAN LAY: Yes.

7 MS. BONDS: Mr. Washington.

8 MR. WASHINGTON: Yes.

9 CHAIRMAN LAY: By a vote of two to
10 nothing, Miss Reedus is again secretary of the
11 board. I believe she also acquired the
12 position last year using the same system, her
13 absence.

14 Okay. The next item on the agenda is the
15 approval of the minutes of October the 23rd,
16 2017. Do I have a motion?

17 MR. WASHINGTON: Yes, you have a motion.
18 I make a motion that we approve the minutes
19 from October 23rd, 2017.

20 CHAIRMAN LAY: Second.

21 Is there any unreadiness concerning the
22 minutes as they were mailed?

23 (No response.)

24 CHAIRMAN LAY: Do you have any?

25 MR. WASHINGTON: No, sir.

1 CHAIRMAN LAY: Other than just some minor
2 errors that may have been how I speak, I have
3 no real changes. I don't think anything of any
4 substance was changed. Roll call.

5 MS. BONDS: Mr. Lay.

6 CHAIRMAN LAY: Yes.

7 MS. BONDS: Mr. Washington.

8 MR. WASHINGTON: Yes.

9 CHAIRMAN LAY: By a vote of two to
10 nothing, the minutes are approved as mailed of
11 October the 23rd, 2017.

12 Item No. 4, Amendment to the Resolution
13 No. 2017-06, Standards of Eligibility of the
14 Township Assistance. Do I have a motion to
15 approve?

16 MR. WASHINGTON: Yes, sir. So move.

17 CHAIRMAN LAY: I second. Madame Trustee,
18 would someone --

19 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes. What it is, is
20 that we have received information from the ITA
21 in attending the conference in that we can make
22 changes to the amounts that families receive
23 for burial assistance. It had come to us by
24 way of some of the service providers, i.e.,
25 funeral directors here in the area, asking

1 could we go up with the amounts that were --
2 had been set in the standards.

3 And we had a meeting with them last week
4 and agreed that we could take each amount,
5 which was 1700 for a regular burial, and take
6 it to 2700, oversize \$2,000 to \$3,000, and
7 cremation went from \$900 to 1200. And the
8 amount of the thousand dollars was the amount
9 that usually the family is able to provide, but
10 nowhere else in this state are families able to
11 provide additional funds because if it is,
12 indeed, a burial for an indigent person, there
13 should be nothing -- or no contribution
14 received from the families.

15 And the second item was that we can no
16 longer have a residency requirement that was
17 placed in the standards by the the former
18 administration; as in Chicago, Illinois,
19 residents coming over and having to be a
20 resident with -- within six months, ITA says
21 that as soon as they come for service, they are
22 a client that has to -- that we have to serve
23 here. So we can no longer have a residency
24 requirement.

25 So those are the two changes that were

1 approved when we did this in October that we've
2 had to ask for your approval so that the
3 standards would be true and accurate.

4 CHAIRMAN LAY: Do you have any questions,
5 Mr. Washington?

6 MR. WASHINGTON: No, just a statement.
7 And Madame Trustee, if you want to elaborate, I
8 understand, but also reading that -- I was kind
9 of concerned about that because a lot of people
10 come over, take the benefits, and then leave.
11 And I think there are several stipulations in
12 the guidelines: They have to prove, first,
13 before they come here --

14 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes.

15 MR. WASHINGTON: -- and get assistance.

16 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes, yes. The only
17 thing that was pretty much our issue was that
18 they would have an ID. And if it did not say
19 Indiana, that's how we knew; or if it was
20 Indiana, their last address could be Hammond or
21 East Chicago, which would send them to another
22 area of service.

23 But if they say to us, I now live in the
24 city of Gary, I haven't had any -- or Griffith
25 or Cal Township, I haven't had anything change,

1 then we can't tell them, you know, you've got
2 to wait six months, go get it, when you come
3 back -- so they're ours to help and serve.

4 CHAIRMAN LAY: I was going to ask a
5 similar question: Do they have to produce any
6 kind of evidence?

7 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes, yes. Most of them
8 do, but they just -- that's almost like the
9 last thing that -- when they get everything
10 else. Because, of course, if we are providing
11 rental assistance or utilities assistance, they
12 have to have a service area address, so...

13 CHAIRMAN LAY: What is IA -- Indiana
14 Association --

15 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Indiana Township
16 Association, yes.

17 CHAIRMAN LAY: Okay.

18 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: ITA.

19 CHAIRMAN LAY: Okay. Any other questions,
20 Mr. Washington?

21 MR. WASHINGTON: No.

22 CHAIRMAN LAY: Roll call.

23 MS. BONDS: Mr. Washington.

24 MR. WASHINGTON: Yes.

25 MS. BONDS: Mr. Lay.

1 CHAIRMAN LAY: Yes. The vote is two yes
2 to -- the trustee's request to amend the
3 standards of eligibility for township
4 assistance has been granted.

5 The next item is Public Comments. Do we
6 have anyone from the public that would like to
7 address the board?

8 (No response.)

9 CHAIRMAN LAY: Is there anyone in the
10 public that would like to address the board?
11 You have an absolute right, under the Statute
12 36-6-6-6, to discuss pretty much anything.

13 (No response.)

14 CHAIRMAN LAY: Hearing none, seeing none,
15 the public portion's closed.

16 Madame Trustee, do you have any comments?

17 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I assume I can say
18 congratulations, Mr. Lay, on becoming this
19 year's chairman. I know how much you did not
20 want to become chairman, but congratulations to
21 you. I'm sure the other board members will,
22 you know, be grateful for you taking it and
23 just happy new year. I look forward to this
24 being a positive and most productive year of
25 serving Calumet Township. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN LAY: Mr. Washington, do you have
2 anything you'd like to say?

3 MR. WASHINGTON: Just happy new year to
4 everyone and congratulations, Mr. Chair.
5 That's it.

6 CHAIRMAN LAY: Okay. I would like to say
7 happy new year.

8 One of the reasons I decided to take --
9 and certainly, I would like to be on the board
10 for the trustee, is -- is Trustee Robinson
11 [sic]. But if I didn't do it, Mr. Washington
12 would be stuck with three years in a row. And
13 in my opinion, he's going to win reelection, he
14 would be stuck in '19 unless someone came who
15 had, you know, the experience to be chairman,
16 and they probably wouldn't want it. They'd
17 want to sit around for a year, at least, and
18 get a better understanding of what's going on.
19 So that was a consideration.

20 And also, we now have minutes. That was
21 my concern. We have a court reporter.

22 So with that, I certainly appreciate the
23 confidence shown to me by the trustee, and I'm
24 sure we're going to have a very good year.

25 There being no -- I'm going to adjourn the

1 meeting of the reorganization and call to order
2 the Local Board of Finance. Roll call.

3 MS. BONDS: Mr. Washington.

4 MR. WASHINGTON: Here.

5 MS. BONDS: Mr. Lay.

6 MR. LAY: Here.

7 The only thing on the agenda is the
8 election of the president and secretary of the
9 Local Board of Finance for 2018.

10 Mr. Washington, I'm going to suggest that
11 we use the same individuals that -- that were
12 elected under the Township Board, and that way
13 we don't have to worry about who's doing what
14 on which board. With that, I would have no
15 objection to you doing both at the same time
16 since it's only two of us.

17 MR. WASHINGTON: I have no problem with
18 that.

19 CHAIRMAN LAY: I have a motion electing
20 myself as well as Mrs. Reedus to the position
21 of secretary.

22 MR. WASHINGTON: I second that motion.

23 CHAIRMAN LAY: Okay. Motion is properly
24 moved and seconded. Since it's only two of us
25 again, there's no one else, unless you want to

1 nominate someone else to be nominated. If
2 not -- if you have none, I would ask for a roll
3 call.

4 MS. BONDS: Mr. Washington.

5 MR. WASHINGTON: Yes.

6 MS. BONDS: Mr. Lay.

7 CHAIRMAN LAY: Yes.

8 By a vote of two to nothing, I've been
9 elected president of the Local Board of
10 Finance, and Miss Reedus, again, has been
11 elected secretary of the Local Board of
12 Finance.

13 I did have one question, because there's
14 not much here: Is there any money outside of
15 the footprint of this township, like in
16 East Chicago Bank or something like that?

17 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: No, sir.

18 CHAIRMAN LAY: I know you think that's
19 strange, but it has happened since I've been on
20 the board in other cities.

21 I have no other questions. Do you have
22 any, Mr. Washington?

23 MR. WASHINGTON: No.

24 CHAIRMAN LAY: Okay. Again, the floor's
25 open for public comment. Do we have any?

1 (No response).

2 CHAIRMAN LAY: Again, we -- well, is
3 everyone here staff, or is anybody here just
4 public?

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Staff.

6 CHAIRMAN LAY: Oh, okay. Well, did you
7 have anything, Mr. -- well, you're staff too,
8 aren't you?

9 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes. No.

10 CHAIRMAN LAY: Okay. Madame Trustee, I'm
11 going to close the Public Comments. Do you
12 have any questions?

13 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: No, I do not.

14 CHAIRMAN LAY: Mr. Washington?

15 MR. WASHINGTON: No.

16 CHAIRMAN LAY: One of the things I would
17 like to raise, and I think we can do it now
18 without any confusion: We probably could
19 rehire -- I would assume our contracts -- I
20 haven't read it -- run out December 31st on the
21 court reporter as well as the attorney. Is
22 that true?

23 MR. WASHINGTON: I don't know if it was a
24 year from when we did the contract or was it
25 till December 31st? I don't remember.

1 MR. WILLIAMS: I didn't see the court
2 reporter's, but I'm almost positive Attorney
3 Monroe's was December 31st.

4 CHAIRMAN LAY: Okay. And do you happen to
5 know yours?

6 COURT REPORTER: I do not.

7 CHAIRMAN LAY: Well, why don't we do it
8 and make this for the year and get it out of
9 the way? Let's do them individually, first on
10 Judge Monroe, if you're going to renew her
11 contract for one year at the same rate --
12 unless you have an objection -- that we paid
13 last year.

14 MR. WASHINGTON: I second that motion.

15 CHAIRMAN LAY: Okay. The motion has been
16 properly moved and seconded. Is there any
17 unreadiness?

18 (No response.)

19 CHAIRMAN LAY: Hearing none, seeing none,
20 roll call.

21 MS. BONDS: Mr. Washington?

22 MR. WASHINGTON: Yes.

23 MS. BONDS: Mr. Lay?

24 CHAIRMAN LAY: Yes. Judge Monroe has been
25 hired for the year 2018, so next year we know

1 it will end December the 31st.

2 Can you make a motion on the court
3 reporter?

4 MR. WASHINGTON: I would like to make a
5 motion that we rehire, for the calendar year
6 2018, BOSS Reporters as our official court
7 reporters for the Calumet Township Board of
8 Trustees meetings.

9 CHAIRMAN LAY: And is that at the same
10 rate?

11 MR. WASHINGTON: Yes.

12 CHAIRMAN LAY: I second that motion.
13 There appears to be no unreadiness. Roll call.

14 MS. BONDS: Mr. Washington.

15 MR. WASHINGTON: Yes.

16 MS. BONDS: Mr. Lay.

17 CHAIRMAN LAY: Yes. A vote of two to
18 nothing, which is the board, her contract, as
19 well as Judge Monroe's, has been approved.

20 I have no further -- let me raise this
21 letter -- I haven't had time to review it, but
22 Mr. Allen --

23 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yeah.

24 CHAIRMAN LAY: Madame Trustee, could you
25 kind of --

1 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: That's for the --

2 CHAIRMAN LAY: He's calling us an advisory
3 board.

4 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: That's for the
5 ambulance service.

6 CHAIRMAN LAY: Right.

7 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Okay. I would say in
8 February or March of last year, we had a
9 meeting with commission -- Commissioner Repay
10 because there was some issues that were coming
11 to life about emergency management services in
12 the Cal Township area, and it's really a fight
13 more so between the Lake Ridge Fire Protection
14 and the Lake Ridge Fire Protection Board, and
15 we've kind of been thrown in the middle of it
16 because what they were saying is that they did
17 not have any coverage, and that is not true.
18 Because from that meeting we spoke with
19 Merrillville fire chief, Gary fire chief, and
20 the Lake Ridge representatives -- Gary's all
21 onboard, as you know, that they live or they
22 have space in the multipurpose center.
23 Merrillville is all onboard because Prompt was
24 closing their service altogether. And from
25 there, you know, I told them, it was not my

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1 responsibility, even though Cal Township
2 residents believe that it's the trustee's
3 responsibilities for ambulance service. Since
4 the former trustee disbanded the services, we
5 just didn't have any, and it's not our
6 responsibility. Just like they call the county
7 police for that area, they call the county with
8 this whole 911 consolidation system. So that's
9 where we were, I thought, with it.

10 This organization -- what is it called --
11 Elite Services came, I guess, and spoke with
12 Commissioner Repay, because after Superior
13 asked to continue the contract, I think they
14 were just like almost \$600,000 too much in what
15 they were asking of the county. So these
16 people came in with their contract. And the
17 next thing I know, I read about it in the
18 paper, I got a call from a news reporter asking
19 about what were we doing. And, you know, they
20 had already made the decision, as in the
21 commissioners. And so I did tell them, you
22 know, if you were going to involve us in it, we
23 should have known something.

24 CHAIRMAN LAY: Right.

25 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: And so they were like,

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1 well, we'll sign it now. Because I said, I
2 haven't spoken with my board. I won't speak
3 with my board. I'm not going to call an
4 emergency meeting on this because it's not our
5 emergency.

6 And they were like, well, we're going to
7 sign this with them because we need some
8 coverage. So if that's their way of dealing
9 with it, that's fine. We don't have anything
10 to do with it. They just threw us in because,
11 again, people believe Cal Township should serve
12 as their fire protection agency, and we have no
13 responsibility to that. And Gary had no
14 problem. They don't get that many runs. Gary
15 had no problem with continuing to help us
16 because they're there. Nor did Merrillville,
17 because it's like just a small area. And so
18 the Lake Ridge Department was the one that's
19 making the big brouhoo [sic], as they have a
20 new fire station that they have not even moved
21 into yet.

22 So it's all kind of stuff going on there
23 that's like they're trying to put us in the
24 middle, but I know you asked for a copy of the
25 contract. Commission Allen sent it here. So I

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1 just made a copy for everyone, and that was it.

2 MR. WASHINGTON: Again, Mr. Chairman, when
3 I got the letter, I called our commissioner,
4 and he kind of gave me a background. So then I
5 told him, you know, make sure he followed up
6 with the trustee and that she would, you know,
7 do what was necessary.

8 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: And Commissioner Allen
9 is our commissioner personally, but, you know,
10 it's Repay for the Calumet Township area. So
11 the two of them, I believe, worked on that
12 together.

13 MR. WASHINGTON: Uh-huh.

14 CHAIRMAN LAY: So I would assume it's your
15 position to do nothing?

16 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: If you guys want to
17 sign it --

18 CHAIRMAN LAY: No. Your position.

19 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: My position is it's
20 fine. You know, let them be responsible or
21 have their responsibilities.

22 CHAIRMAN LAY: Okay. But your position --

23 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I'm not going to sign
24 it.

25 CHAIRMAN LAY: Just they don't know that

1 we're not going to bind the board [sic], I
2 would suggest the contract is probably equally
3 poorly drafted. I think I can speak for the
4 board and Mr. Washington --

5 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yeah, Mr. Chairman,
6 would you notify them?

7 CHAIRMAN LAY: No. I don't even think I
8 need to notify them at all. You can ignore
9 them if you want to, but you are the trustee.

10 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Right.

11 CHAIRMAN LAY: So it's our position
12 that --

13 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: As my board, you guys
14 back me, and our position is --

15 CHAIRMAN LAY: There's a record over there
16 (indicating). They're getting not a dime.

17 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Oh, yeah.

18 CHAIRMAN LAY: Until -- unless they do
19 something else. But no, you can tell them we
20 reject it. Do you think you want to vote on
21 this, Mr. Washington, or you agree with me?

22 MR. WASHINGTON: I agree with whatever the
23 trustees says.

24 CHAIRMAN LAY: All right.

25 MR. WASHINGTON: If she says leave it

1 alone, we leave it alone.

2 CHAIRMAN LAY: It's ridiculous. You can
3 send them a copy of the contract back.

4 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I think it was just
5 more so for informational purposes. I don't
6 think they were asking us to sign it. They've
7 already signed it on their behalf.

8 CHAIRMAN LAY: Right.

9 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: And it was just more to
10 bring -- if they come now and say, what are you
11 guys ready to do? Again, it's not our
12 responsibility to --

13 CHAIRMAN LAY: Let's clear it up. I move
14 that we notify, through the trustee, that we
15 will not participate in this unincorporated
16 ambulance service for Cal Township. Do I have
17 a second?

18 MR. WASHINGTON: Yes, you do.

19 CHAIRMAN LAY: Okay. Properly moved and
20 seconded. Hearing no other unreadiness, roll
21 call.

22 MS. BONDS: Mr. Washington.

23 MR. WASHINGTON: Yes.

24 MS. BONDS: Mr. Lay.

25 CHAIRMAN LAY: Yes.

1 We have rejected the contract for this
2 unincorporated area.

3 Hearing nothing else -- yes, sir.

4 MR. WILLIAMS: I just want to make sure --
5 this came to my attention: As relates to the
6 renewing of the contracts for the attorney and
7 BOSS Reporters, Attorney Jones, if you could
8 just advise Attorney Monroe to prepare those.

9 MR. JONES: I'll definitely do that.

10 CHAIRMAN LAY: And I would also ask that
11 you review these contracts.

12 MR. WILLIAMS: I will.

13 CHAIRMAN LAY: Yes. And probably in the
14 future, I'm going to ask you to prepare the
15 contacts, but --

16 MR. WILLIAMS: If my boss instructs me to
17 do the same, I have no problem.

18 MR. LAY: You have multiple bosses. This
19 board is one too.

20 MR. WILLIAMS: We'll continue to disagree
21 on that.

22 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I thought you all had
23 your own attorney.

24 CHAIRMAN LAY: But we can't overrule him.
25 He is the attorney for the township.

1 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Trustee.

2 CHAIRMAN LAY: No, no. Township. Look at
3 your statute. Absolutely it says township.

4 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: All right, Mr. Lay.

5 CHAIRMAN LAY: The problem occurred back
6 in 1995 when the trustee and the board agreed
7 that the board could have an attorney. But
8 other than that, the township -- same in the
9 city, where on the council, you have a legal
10 adviser there, but they have no jurisdiction to
11 do much. In fact, Mr. Williams holds that
12 position and pretty much, he's mastered it. So
13 we're going to do the same here.

14 Hearing nothing, seeing nothing, I move
15 for adjournment.

16 MR. WASHINGTON: So moved.

17 CHAIRMAN LAY: Seconded.

18 Meeting adjourned.

19 (Meeting concluded at 5:31 p.m.)

20 --oo0oo--

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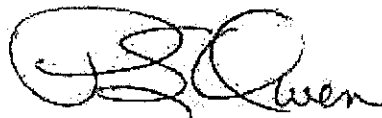
1 STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS:
2 COUNTY OF LAKE)

3 THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP BOARD
4 OF TRUSTEES
5 GARY, INDIANA

6 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

7 I, PAMELA S. OWEN, CSR, RPR, and Notary
8 Public for the County of Lake, State of Indiana, do
9 hereby certify that I reported in machine shorthand
10 the foregoing proceedings had in the above-entitled
11 matter, at the time and place herein before set
12 forth; and I do further certify that the foregoing
13 transcript, consisting of twenty-five (25)
14 typewritten pages, is a true and correct transcript
15 of my said stenographic notes.

12 Signed this 11th day of January, 2018.



21
22
23 PAMELA S. OWEN, CSR, RPR
24 IL Lic. No. 084-002294
25 Notary Public, Lake County, IN
My Commission Expires: 8/1/24

	Allegiance (2) 4:5,6	become (1) 11:20	11:17;15:17;17:2; 22:3,8,19;23:2	9
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