

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

---

*April 23, 2019*  
*REGULAR MEETING*

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*BOSS REPORTERS*  
*Gary \* Merrillville \* Valparaiso, Indiana*  
*3893 East Lincoln Highway (Rt. 30)*  
*Merrillville, Indiana 46410*  
*(219) 769-9090*

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1 STATE OF INDIANA )  
2 COUNTY OF LAKE ) SS:  
3 )

4 THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
5 GARY, INDIANA

6  
7  
8 REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had at the meeting  
9 before the Calumet Township Board, reported by  
10 Kristen K. Stokes, CSR, Notary Public in and for the  
11 County of Lake, State of Indiana, taken at the  
12 Griffith City Hall, 610 Connecticut Street, Gary,  
13 Indiana, on April 23, 2019, scheduled to begin at  
14 4:00 p.m. in the evening.

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APPEARANCES:

Darren Washington, Board Chairman

Jacqueline Holmes, Secretary

Kimberly Robinson, Township Trustee

Sherita Smith, Chief Deputy

Romeka Bonds, Executive Secretary

Deidre Monroe, Board Attorney

Rinzer Williams, III, Township Attorney

and

Members of the Public

\* \* \* \* \*

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CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Good afternoon.  
Welcome to the Calumet Township Board  
meeting of March -- not March -- April 23rd,  
2019.

May we have a roll call, Ms. Bonds?

MS. BONDS: Ms. Holmes?

MS. HOLMES: Present.

MS. BONDS: Mr. Washington?

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

With two yes, there's enough for a  
quorum.

May we stand for the pledge of  
allegiance.

(PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.)

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Thank you.

Ms. Holmes, I'd like to amend tonight's  
agenda to add, before item No. 2, medical  
trust, the approval of the board minute  
meetings, the regular meeting minutes for  
February 18, 2019, and March 4th, 2019.

Okay?

MS. HOLMES: That's fine.

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: I make a motion.

Second?

MS. HOLMES: I second it.

1 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. All in  
2 favor by saying aye.

3 Aye.

4 MS. HOLMES: Aye.

5 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. All right.  
6 Next item, approval of board meeting minutes  
7 from the regular meetings of February 18th  
8 and March 4th, 2019.

9 Do you have any questions about the  
10 minutes?

11 MS. HOLMES: No.

12 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. I don't  
13 have any.

14 I make a motion we approve the regular  
15 minute meetings -- the regular board meeting  
16 minutes for February 18, 2019, and March  
17 4th, 2019.

18 May we have a roll call, Ms. Bonds?

19 MS. BONDS: Ms. Holmes?

20 MS. HOLMES: Yes.

21 MS. BONDS: Mr. Washington?

22 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

23 With two yes, motion carries for  
24 approval of those minutes.

25 Item 2, medical trust.

1 Madam Trustee?

2 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Mr. President and  
3 Board Member Holmes, thank you for coming.  
4 I know this was a last-minute meeting called  
5 by myself in order -- it really is  
6 informational only. It's a resolution that  
7 needs to just be presented to you on behalf  
8 of the Trustee, myself.

9 It is a collective effort that was led  
10 by North Township Trustee Mrvan. It was  
11 introduced to us about two years ago in the  
12 effort to get insurance levels at an  
13 affordable price for all employees. It just  
14 simply broke my heart last year when we had  
15 some employees with family members,  
16 children, who had to forego insurance  
17 because they could not afford it.

18 So we had, again, been introduced to  
19 J.A. Benefits, which is the  
20 broker/administrator of this plan. And  
21 finally we got it together. It is North  
22 Township, Calumet Township and Brown  
23 Township and Morgan -- Brown Township  
24 Trustee and Morgan County, Indiana.

25 St. John was on with us, but because she

1 was a newer, just recently-elected trustee,  
2 she decided that she and the two other  
3 employees did not want to.

4 So what I'm saying basically is right  
5 now we're at a number of over 100, which  
6 beats our 43 people any day. You like  
7 strength in numbers; right? So we're just  
8 asking -- we're just being inclusive in  
9 presenting this to you. We've made our  
10 first payment. It was not any more than  
11 we've paid already. And we won't really see  
12 the benefit of it maybe until next year or  
13 the year after when all of the monies are  
14 collected and all of it comes from the  
15 trust, no longer from us.

16 And they -- and we're always open --  
17 right now, as I said, it's three trustees,  
18 three townships, but we're always open --  
19 always open -- to collect or to have other  
20 trustees enter as we continuously work to  
21 offer this to anyone else in township  
22 government.

23 Ms. Smith, as the Chief Deputy, H.R.  
24 enforcer, all of the above, has been the key  
25 person and been online and just working this

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1 out, but if you have any questions or if she  
2 would like to say anything else that I have  
3 not covered --

4 MS. SMITH: You did an excellent job.  
5 Thank you, Mr. Robinson.

6 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I know,  
7 Mr. President, you had a question earlier  
8 that I think we got an answer from the  
9 attorney --

10 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

11 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: -- who is dealing  
12 with it as we spoke. Attorney Williams did  
13 also look over this, and we also had Steve,  
14 who's not available, Steve Dalton, our CPA,  
15 look over it. He was very congratulatory in  
16 our efforts to make this work for everyone.  
17 Okay.

18 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Ms. Holmes, do you  
19 have any comments?

20 MS. HOLMES: Well, I work out at U.S.  
21 Steel, and there was a problem, you know,  
22 with insurance. And it is hard to find good  
23 insurance. And for some reason they keep  
24 going back and forth. The company did not  
25 want us to have insurance, but we fought,



1 and we got our insurance. So I know how  
2 important insurance is, especially with the  
3 families.

4 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Right.

5 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: I just want to  
6 commend you, Madam Trustee, Chief Deputy,  
7 for doing this and working collectively with  
8 other townships because many of your  
9 strikes -- Jackie knows this -- is really  
10 not over pay. It's the insurance. And  
11 companies now -- we have some very good  
12 insurance, but companies now are switching.  
13 It's not like it used to be. So you all  
14 have to be commended.

15 And again, it's because of my ignorance  
16 of knowing about insurance that I asked  
17 about that clause. When I see stuff with  
18 Griffith and all this other kind of stuff, I  
19 just want to make sure there ain't no tricks  
20 being thrown in behind the scenes.

21 And Attorney Williams, you -- with that  
22 information we got from the attorney, that  
23 cleared that up. So I want to thank you all  
24 and congratulations on doing that and  
25 helping out the employees of Calumet

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1 Township.

2 MR. WILLIAMS: Very good.

3 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: So do you have  
5 anything else?

6 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I just want to  
7 mention again the job fair that will be  
8 happening next Tuesday. We have over -- and  
9 Ms. Pruitt can speak to this. She's worked  
10 very hard on it. We have over 30 employees.  
11 I might even go myself to see what I can  
12 pick up on the nighttime. And we have over  
13 30 employees, so if you guys are free on  
14 that day, come out, stop by the  
15 multi-purpose center.

16 She and Ms. Niese -- actually, it's  
17 their thing, and Ms. Sandy Cogan. So if you  
18 guys -- you're more than invited. We put it  
19 out in enough time. As you see, we started  
20 it, months -- or earlier the prior month as  
21 soon as we got the date. And people have  
22 been sharing it and sharing it. They read  
23 it at my church Sunday. I think some other  
24 churches did as well, so -- and they  
25 mentioned it on WLTH, I heard, so --

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1 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: With that being  
2 said, I would like to make a motion for the  
3 approval of Resolution 2019-03, Resolution  
4 of Calumet Township board provided for  
5 participation in township medical trust.

6 Is there a second?

7 MS. HOLMES: I second.

8 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Can we have a roll  
9 call?

10 MS. BONDS: Ms. Holmes?

11 MS. HOLMES: Yes.

12 MS. BONDS: Mr. Washington?

13 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

14 With two yes, zero nays, the motion  
15 carries.

16 Do we have any public comments tonight?

17 Madam Trustee, do you have any comments?

18 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I think this is a  
19 good hour. I really like this. Get it in.  
20 We still got daylight. If you guys could  
21 consider it. Coach -- or I'm sorry, Board  
22 Member Piggee did call and say he was  
23 traveling and he would not be able to make  
24 it after he thought he was going to be able  
25 to make it, but that would be my only

1 consideration. We like the 4:00 o'clock  
2 hour. That way it -- we're here. Gives  
3 staff members a moment to come up and join  
4 us, and there's no after work compensation  
5 to be asked for, so -- I'm just playing.  
6 They don't ask for it, but okay. That's it.

7 Thank you again for your help.

8 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Any comments,  
9 Ms. Holmes?

10 MS. HOLMES: No.

11 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: And I don't have  
12 any comments.

13 So the chair would like to entertain a  
14 motion for adjournment. All in favor say  
15 aye.

16 Aye.

17 MS. HOLMES: Aye.

18 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Have a nice  
19 afternoon.

20 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Thank you.

21

22 (TOWNSHIP MEETING CONCLUDED AT 4:31 P.M.)

23

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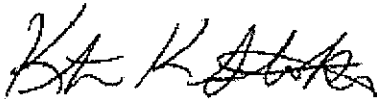
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 ) SS:  
2 COUNTY OF LAKE )

3 THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
4 GARY, INDIANA

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7 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE  
8

9 I, KRISTEN K. STOKES, CSR, Notary Public in  
10 and for the County of Lake, State of Indiana, do  
11 hereby certify that I reported in machine shorthand  
12 the foregoing proceedings had in the above-entitled  
13 matter, at the time and place herein set forth; and  
14 I do further certify that the foregoing transcript,  
15 is a true and correct transcript of my said  
16 stenographic notes.

17  
18 29th day of April, 2019.

19 

20 /s/ Kristen K. Stokes  
KRISTEN K. STOKES, CSR  
21 CSR# 084-003723

22 My Commission Expires: 8/27/23  
23 Notary Public: Lake County, Indiana  
24  
25

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

3 THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
4 GARY, INDIANA  
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6  
7 These minutes of the Calumet Township Board  
8 meeting held on April 23, 2019, were approved by the  
9 Board of Trustees on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of  
10 September, 2019.  
11

12 Darren L. Washington  
13 Darren Washington, Board Chairman

14 Jacqueline Holmes  
15 Jacqueline Holmes, Secretary  
16

17 James Piggee  
18 James Piggee, Board Member  
19

20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

<p><b>A</b></p> <p>able (2) 10:23,24</p> <p>above (1) 6:24</p> <p>actually (1) 9:16</p> <p>add (1) 3:17</p> <p>adjournment (1) 11:14</p> <p>afford (1) 5:17</p> <p>affordable (1) 5:13</p> <p>afternoon (2) 3:1;11:19</p> <p>again (4) 5:18;8:15;9:7;11:7</p> <p>agenda (1) 3:17</p> <p>ago (1) 5:11</p> <p>ain't (1) 8:19</p> <p>allegiance (2) 3:13,14</p> <p>always (3) 6:16,18,19</p> <p>amend (1) 3:16</p> <p>approval (4) 3:18;4:6,24;10:3</p> <p>approve (1) 4:14</p> <p>April (1) 3:3</p> <p>attorney (4) 7:9,12;8:21,22</p> <p>available (1) 7:14</p> <p>aye (6) 4:2,3,4;11:15,16,17</p>	<p>3:2,18;4:6,15;5:3; 10:4,21</p> <p><b>Bonds (8)</b> 3:5,6,8;4:18,19,21; 10:10,12</p> <p>broke (1) 5:14</p> <p>broker/administrator (1) 5:20</p> <p><b>Brown (2)</b> 5:22,23</p>	<p>comments (5) 7:19;10:16,17; 11:8,12</p> <p>companies (2) 8:11,12</p> <p>company (1) 7:24</p> <p>compensation (1) 11:4</p> <p><b>CONCLUDED (1)</b> 11:22</p> <p>congratulations (1) 8:24</p> <p>congratulatory (1) 7:15</p> <p>consider (1) 10:21</p> <p>consideration (1) 11:1</p> <p>continuously (1) 6:20</p> <p>County (1) 5:24</p> <p>covered (1) 7:3</p> <p>CPA (1) 7:14</p>	<p>6:20</p> <p>entertain (1) 11:13</p> <p>especially (1) 8:2</p> <p>even (1) 9:11</p> <p>everyone (1) 7:16</p> <p>excellent (1) 7:4</p>	<p>heart (1) 5:14</p> <p>help (1) 11:7</p> <p>helping (1) 8:25</p> <p><b>Holmes (18)</b> 3:6,7,16,22,25;4:4, 11,19,20;5:3;7:18,20; 10:7,10,11;11:9,10, 17</p> <p>hour (2) 10:19;11:2</p> <p><b>HR (1)</b> 6:23</p>
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