

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

*September 16, 2019
REGULAR MEETING*

*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)
) SS:
 2 COUNTY OF LAKE)

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 610
 12 Connecticut Street, Gary, Indiana, on September 16,
 13 2019, scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. in the
 14 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

Gladys Miller, Finance Manager

Steve Dalton, Financial Advisor

and

Members of the Public

* * * * *

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1 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Good evening,
2 ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the
3 Township Board's public meeting.

4 Can we please stand for the pledge of
5 allegiance.

6 (STOOD FOR PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.)

7 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Good afternoon,
8 everyone.

9 Ms. Bonds, can we have roll call?

10 MS. BONDS: Ms. Jacqueline Holmes?

11 MS. HOLMES: Yes.

12 MS. BONDS: Mr. James Piggee?

13 MR. PIGGEE: Present.

14 MS. BONDS: Mr. Darren Washington?

15 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Present.

16 With three board members present, we
17 have enough for a quorum.

18 So the next item on the agenda is the
19 approval of the minutes for April 23, 2019.

20 MR. PIGGEE: So moved.

21 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Can I make a
22 motion first?

23 MR. PIGGEE: Oh, I'm sorry.

24 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: I'd like to make a
25 motion to approve the minutes of April 23rd,

1 2019. Are there any questions or
2 discussions by the board members?

3 THE BOARD MEMBERS: No.

4 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. All in
5 favor of the board meeting minutes signify
6 by saying aye?

7 MS. HOLMES: Aye.

8 MR. PIGGEE: Aye.

9 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Those opposed,
10 nay?

11 (NO RESPONSE.)

12 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: The ayes have it.
13 Thank you.

14 Item No. 3, Resolution No. 2019-04, 2020
15 operating budget.

16 I'm going to turn that over to you,
17 Steve.

18 MR. DALTON: Thank you.

19 Madam Trustee, and Board Members, let me
20 just give you a brief summary, and we can
21 talk a bit about procedure. In front of you
22 I believe you have what's called a notice to
23 taxpayers Resolution 2019-04. When we come
24 back in a month, we will have the actual
25 resolution that you'll sign. This is the

1 notice that has been posted on Gateway and
2 is the detail of the budget that is being
3 proposed for 2020.

4 The budget estimate is Column 2. That's
5 each of the five funds that we budgeted.
6 You'll notice that we no longer have a levy
7 in Column 3 for the Community and Building
8 Services Fund. It's our proposal for 2020
9 to eliminate that fund and to have that fund
10 merged with the General Fund, the Civil
11 Fund. There was maybe a reason to have a
12 totally separate fund many years ago, and
13 there really is no longer a reason, and we
14 continue to move monies around between the
15 funds because they're doing very similar
16 things. And it made more sense to account
17 for them in a single fund. So there will be
18 no levy -- property tax levy asked for in
19 the Community and Building Services Fund.

20 The budget line item number -- items are
21 General Fund, \$1,571,000; Community and
22 Building Services, \$200,000, which is to
23 move the balance to the General Fund;
24 Township Assistance, \$1.4 million; Township
25 Assistance Benefits, \$1.8 million;

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1 Recreation, \$349,000. These are all numbers
2 very, very similar. Minor modifications to
3 the year that we're sitting in.

4 What we try to do is learn from the
5 monthly amounts that are being spent and
6 make minor modifications so that Gladys,
7 who's handling the day-to-day finances,
8 doesn't have to keep making transfers all
9 the time. Let's try to have a budget that
10 matches what our spending looks and feels
11 like.

12 If you compare the bottom of Column 3 to
13 the bottom of Column 5, you'll see that
14 we're also requesting less property taxes
15 from the taxpayers for 2020, about \$200,000
16 less. \$9.1 million is this year's property
17 tax levy. \$8.9 million is the one we're
18 requesting for 2020. That is a reflection
19 of this Trustee's commitment to continuing
20 the expense restriction, trying to keep our
21 expenses as low as possible, and also our
22 understanding that we are in a community
23 that has a circuit-breaker problem. Going
24 into 2020, everybody has more of a
25 circuit-breaker problem than we've had for

1 the last 20 years or 10 years. And so
2 therefore, we're trying to reflect our part
3 in trying to keep the property taxes as low
4 as possible so that everybody has less
5 circuit-breaker in 2020, including the
6 schools and the city and the county and the
7 township. Altogether we share that tax
8 rate. And the higher that tax rate goes,
9 the less collections are to those other
10 units that are in, honestly, worse shape
11 than we are.

12 We're in a pretty good spot. We have
13 cash reserves. We've been running a
14 balanced budget now for four consecutive
15 years. You're borrowing from yourself
16 instead of borrowing from a bank when you
17 need to make cash transfers, and you're
18 paying it back every year as you wanted to.
19 So I want to compliment all of you in the
20 fiscal responsibilities that are reflected
21 in the last four years and in this budget
22 presented in front of you.

23 If you have specific questions on the
24 line items, I'd be happy to answer them, or
25 I'd be happy to turn them over to members of

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1 the team that understand them better. Just,
2 first of all, I'll point out before we get
3 too far through the agenda, this is a good
4 time whenever we're done with questions and
5 answers of the board to call for a public
6 hearing that's required tonight, but we
7 don't have to vote tonight. We vote in a
8 month.

9 MR. PIGGEE: Mr. Chair?

10 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

11 MR. PIGGEE: I'd like to ask about, it
12 sounds like you had a referendum when you
13 said the taxes for, you know, the public.
14 Is that the referendum?

15 MR. DALTON: Referendum would be a very
16 specific thing like the schools have
17 attempted to do where we ask the taxpayers
18 to let us increase taxes beyond their
19 circuit-breaker limits. We've never asked
20 for a referendum for Calumet Township.

21 MR. PIGGEE: Okay.

22 MR. DALTON: We don't need to.

23 MR. PIGGEE: We don't need to.

24 MR. DALTON: We get plenty of property
25 taxes. We're actually asking the taxpayers

1 for less than the legal amount we're allowed
2 to ask them for.

3 MR. PIGGEE: Okay.

4 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Mr. Dalton, I
5 wanted to bring it to your attention. I
6 don't know if it was a typo or I may be
7 missing something, but on the line item for
8 Township Assistance Administration versus
9 Township Assistance Benefits, the budget
10 estimate in Column 2 is different, but 3, 4,
11 5 and 6, they're all the same.

12 MR. DALTON: The budget -- let me see if
13 I understand.

14 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Actually, the levy
15 percentage difference, they both got
16 negative 6.58, negative 6.58. But your
17 budget estimates for Fund 0844 and 0845,
18 those are two totally different amounts.

19 MR. DALTON: So the percentage is a
20 calculation based on the levy, so it's a
21 calculation based on Column 3. So Township
22 Assistance Admin and Township Assistance
23 Benefits are both asking for the same levy
24 amount, property tax levies, and they are
25 both six-and-a-half percent less than the

1 tax levy we have this year, where the budget
2 itself, the amount you're going to spend, is
3 never the same number as the property tax
4 levy. We bring in other dollars besides
5 property taxes.

6 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. Any more
7 questions?

8 MS. HOLMES: No questions.

9 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. At this
10 time is there anybody from the public that
11 has any questions that they would like to
12 address to the administration concerning the
13 proposed budget? Again, your questions will
14 be responded to, but we will not vote
15 officially until the meeting in October, so
16 if there's anyone who would like to come up,
17 please announce yourself, your name and --
18 for the record, and if you have any
19 questions, you can address the Trustee.
20 Anyone?

21 (NO RESPONSE.)

22 MR. PIGGEE: Mr. Chair?

23 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes, Mr. Piggee.

24 MR. PIGGEE: Maybe I'm out of order for
25 asking this question, but in terms of the

1 raises that the employees of the township
2 receive, is that public knowledge?

3 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

4 MR. PIGGEE: It is public knowledge.

5 Okay.

6 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

7 MR. PIGGEE: Ms. Robinson, may I ask you
8 a question now?

9 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes.

10 MR. PIGGEE: Am I out of order?

11 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Let me -- let me --
12 Madam Trustee, let me --

13 If your question is regarding anything
14 regarding the Township office employees,
15 that's item -- the next item.

16 MR. PIGGEE: Okay. I'll hold it.

17 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. We're
18 looking at the entire budget.

19 MR. PIGGEE: I'll hold it. Okay.

20 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All right. Any
21 more questions regarding Resolution 2019-04,
22 the operating budget?

23 (NO RESPONSE.)

24 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Thank you.

25 Madam Trustee, do you have any more you

1 want to add regarding the operating budget?

2 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: No, I do not. Thank
3 you.

4 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: And again, we will
5 vote on that at the next meeting.

6 So the next item for discussion is
7 Resolution 2019-05, the 2020 salary budget.

8 MR. DALTON: I can comment first, and
9 then you can fill in if I miss something,
10 Trustee.

11 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Please. Yes.

12 MR. DALTON: We have taken the entire
13 same document that you approved one year
14 ago and brought it forward to you for this
15 year's approval. You'll note there are
16 ranges for many of the job titles, so that
17 is not to say that nobody is getting a
18 different pay level, but everybody is still
19 sitting inside the same range that you
20 approved last year. And the reason for that
21 is to give the Trustee administration the
22 opportunity to make decisions on a case by
23 case basis for the specific job titles that
24 are represented.

25 Instead of having 50 lines, we combined

1 some of them, and then the Trustee
2 administration can make those decisions. So
3 I wanted to speak -- there probably are
4 people having minor adjustments to their
5 salaries, but they all fit within the same
6 ranges that we had last year.

7 Trustee, you can expand if I misstated
8 it at all.

9 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: No. That's perfect.

10 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Any questions by
11 board members?

12 MR. PIGGEE: Yes, I have a question. On
13 the salaries for the employees, how do you
14 determine that, Ms. Robinson, the number of
15 raises, how much to raise, that type of
16 thing?

17 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: That's why we made
18 the range because we really determine it
19 upon the responsibilities of the person in
20 that position. They may say that they could
21 be a shelter assistant part time or full
22 time but they actually do a whole lot more.
23 So sometimes if we have it, and like Steve
24 said, we usually put it within a range but
25 not more than the cap or the highest end of

1 the range so that we don't go over our
2 bottom line and have to come back to you for
3 amendments or -- that we made, but it's
4 usually -- most of the people that are still
5 employed here that have been here have been
6 with this same budget for the last four
7 years.

8 In some cases we brought people up to
9 what we thought they should be making in
10 comparison to what people were making when
11 we got here. So it's been, you know, trying
12 to just fair it out for everyone. So we
13 usually, if we can, if we have money
14 available, we try to give between 1,000 and
15 3,000, you know, to those people who have
16 been left behind by the prior administration.
17 And so we're trying to just bring everybody
18 to a level area.

19 MR. PIGGEE: The same level.

20 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes.

21 MR. PIGGEE: Okay. Another question.

22 What about evaluations?

23 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: We do have
24 evaluations.

25 MR. PIGGEE: Do you have evaluations? I

1 would like to see one of your evaluations.
2 And the reason I'm asking is this: Being a
3 former administrator myself in the school
4 district, in order to get a raise, you know,
5 you have to evaluate that person, and that's
6 my concern.

7 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: We do annual
8 evaluations, and we'll get a blank one to
9 you.

10 MR. PIGGEE: Okay. Appreciate it.

11 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Okay.

12 MR. PIGGEE: Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All right. The
14 request that I would have, especially
15 because we have two new board members, if
16 you can provide this to us before the next
17 meeting. Like, with your salary schedule,
18 we have different positions, but we have
19 different numbers by them. Could you
20 provide all board members with every person
21 and the salary that they're actually making?

22 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Okay.

23 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: For instance,
24 you've got the Manager of Finance, IS&T.
25 You got four positions, but you got a salary

1 range from 43 to 50. And so that would help
2 the board members to know everybody that's
3 working and what specifically they're
4 actually making so they could tie that to
5 the General Fund budget regarding salaries.

6 Now, the Chief Deputy's position, I
7 don't remember that position having a range.
8 Has that always had a range?

9 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: No. I'm just asking
10 for that this year.

11 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: You're asking for
12 a range for this year?

13 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yeah.

14 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All right. Any
15 more questions?

16 MR. PIGGEE: No, I'm fine, Mr. Chair.

17 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All right.

18 Ms. Holmes?

19 MS. HOLMES: No questions.

20 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Anything else from
21 administration?

22 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: No. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. Item No. 5,
24 Resolution 2019-06, appropriation transfer.

25 ATTORNEY RINZER: Mr. Chair, the public.

1 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Oh, that's right.
2 Does anybody -- excuse me. Forgive me. Is
3 there anyone in the audience tonight that
4 would like to ask any questions or have any
5 comments regarding Resolution 2019-05 2020
6 salary budget? If there's anyone here
7 tonight that has any questions or would like
8 to make comments, the floor is yours this
9 evening.

10 Thank you, Attorney Rinzer.

11 Is there anyone who would like to speak
12 or have questions?

13 (NO RESPONSE.)

14 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All right. Thank
15 you.

16 Resolution 2019-06, appropriation
17 transfer.

18 MR. DALTON: You probably recall that
19 the State actually allows the administration
20 to make transfers within the same series.
21 We call them accounting series. And
22 typically, we have 100 series, which is our
23 personnel expenses, and 200, which is
24 supplies, and 300, which is services, and
25 400, which is capital outlays. In township

1 government we have a couple others because
2 there's Township Benefits which don't fit
3 into those series.

4 We've had this year a higher expenditure
5 in township assistance on burials than we
6 have in previous years, and so we're asking
7 to take dollars from Township Assistance
8 Benefits Fund that are in the wrong
9 series -- we don't need them in that
10 series -- and move them into the series that
11 would allow us to pay for more burials since
12 we will have more than is budgeted for this
13 year. It is not a budget increase. It's a
14 transfer between line items.

15 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Madam Trustee,
16 anything?

17 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yeah. Mr. Dalton did
18 ask us did we have any idea of why our
19 burials had gone so high. And it's just
20 been like an unfortunate year of circumstances
21 due to the killings and things like that.
22 And with that, as burials being one of the
23 major components of township government, we
24 have to help where we can.

25 And what I'm thinking of is that

1 somewhere within our assessment process to
2 the public or to those people who come to
3 the office, we may have a session on perhaps
4 talking to people about the importance of
5 life insurance, whereas it's not as
6 expensive, but I know, you know, people say,
7 well, they're already coming here for help
8 as it is, and I get that. But you know,
9 when you have to do things that you have to
10 do that are necessary, you know, I would
11 just like to, again, do some outreach and
12 help people who just don't even realize life
13 insurance, you know, the minimum amount you
14 get.

15 And we've had different discussions,
16 also, with the funeral homes in the area who
17 have all agreed to do -- we made aware --
18 families could contribute up to \$1,000, but
19 we just put the whole \$1,000. So now \$2,700
20 is what we also give. So that could be
21 another reason for the increase but --
22 because families have such a hard time
23 coming up with that amount. And now, with
24 Go Fund Me and all that kind of stuff, it
25 just becomes too convoluted. So we just

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1 decided to take care of everything and,
2 again, help in our community as we can, so
3 that's the purpose.

4 ATTORNEY RINZER: Mr. Chair?

5 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

6 ATTORNEY RINZER: Given the urgent need
7 and the increase as articulated by both the
8 Trustee and Mr. Dalton coupled with the fact
9 that this is our current year fund and not
10 next year's fund, we're hopeful we can take
11 action on this today as the need arises
12 daily. And we would hate to run out of
13 money and not be able to assist prior to the
14 next meeting.

15 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: So you think you
16 may run out of money between now and the
17 meeting in October?

18 ATTORNEY RINZER: I believe it's
19 possible.

20 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay.

21 MR. PIGGEE: Mr. Chair?

22 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

23 MR. PIGGEE: And Ms. Trustee?

24 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes.

25 MR. PIGGEE: Have you had quite a few

1 this year in terms of persons seeking funds?

2 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes. Yes, we have.

3 MR. PIGGEE: Can you give me a number,
4 approximately?

5 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I'm going to look at
6 the staff.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm going to say
8 ballpark figure anywhere between maybe 10 to
9 15.

10 MR. PIGGEE: Between 10 to 15?

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: This month, you say?

12 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: No.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Did you say this
14 month?

15 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: No, he said this
16 year.

17 MR. PIGGEE: No, this year.

18 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Burials.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Maybe 15, 20.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Oh, no. More than
21 that.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: No, no.

23 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Mr. Hudson, do you
24 know off your head?

25 MR. HUDSON: This year?

1 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes, this year.

2 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Wait a minute.

3 Can you please stand?

4 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Oh, I'm sorry.

5 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: We have a reporter
6 that is taking names. Can you come up to
7 the microphone because this is very
8 important.

9 And the question that you-all can answer
10 to, have we taken care of this for next year
11 also?

12 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes, we did raise it
13 up. Yes. So this is Mr. Hudson.

14 MR. HUDSON: I'm Mr. Hudson, James
15 Hudson. I'm a Manager in Service and
16 Internal Department. And the question I
17 believe is an estimation on how many burials
18 we had since the beginning of the year until
19 now. It's just an estimation. To my
20 knowledge, I can say -- let's see, this is
21 September -- over 100. And this is Gary,
22 Indiana, like I said. Unfortunately,
23 however, we do have unfortunately a high
24 crime rate, but --

25 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Calumet Township. We

1 serve more than Gary.

2 MR. HUDSON: Just this week we had --
3 just this week we had -- I know this past
4 week we had at least five, and that's just
5 in one week. And we're talking since the
6 beginning of the year to date. Just to give
7 you an idea.

8 MR. PIGGEE: Okay.

9 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Because when a person
10 is deemed indigent, you know, they have no
11 resources, and most of, you know, the
12 younger people who think, you know, they're
13 internal don't -- or their parents, you
14 know, don't really have that kind of
15 coverage or don't worry about it because,
16 you know, they're thinking they'll die
17 before the child or young person. So that
18 is the majority. Or if you've had, like,
19 elderly people whose family have kind of
20 left them here to, you know, live, they
21 usually don't, so they come here. And it's
22 not just Gary, as I was saying. We take
23 care of Griffith, Cal Township as well.

24 MR. PIGGEE: Okay. Thank you.

25 MR. HUDSON: You're welcome.

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1 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Any more questions
2 by board members?

3 MR. PIGGEE: No, I'm fine. This is
4 shocking, Mr. Chair, because I really didn't
5 think it was that many, and it's really
6 shocking to me.

7 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Oh, yeah. That's
8 a lot.

9 So since Resolution 2019-06 is -- this
10 is a current budget item for this year,
11 there's no need to suspend the rules, so we
12 need to go ahead and take a vote on this
13 right now. So I make a motion that -- go
14 ahead.

15 MR. RINZER: Public comment again before
16 we make a motion.

17 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Well, it seemed
18 like everybody in here has already delved
19 into this, so is there anyone else who wants
20 to speak on this?

21 (NO RESPONSE.)

22 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. If not --
23 thank you. Attorney Rinzer Williams for the
24 record because I called him Attorney
25 Rinzer.

1 I would like to make a motion that we
2 approve Resolution 2019-06, the
3 appropriation transfer, that was just
4 presented to us. Is there a second?

5 MR. PIGGEE: Second.

6 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Is there any
7 discussion?

8 Hearing no discussion, may we have a
9 roll call, Ms. Bonds.

10 MS. BONDS: Mr. Piggee?

11 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

12 MS. BONDS: Ms. Holmes?

13 MS. HOLMES: Yes.

14 MS. BONDS: Mr. Washington?

15 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

16 With three yes and zero nays, the motion
17 carries.

18 Public comments? Anybody like to make
19 public comments?

20 (NO RESPONSE.)

21 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All right.
22 Trustee.

23 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Okay. Good
24 afternoon. Thank you for all the staff
25 that's here today. I think they're more so

1 here for the last item I have on my list and
2 not necessarily for me, but we -- I just
3 wanted to give the -- bring the board to
4 date on some things we've done to date.

5 We did participate in the annual back
6 to school give-away at the Railcats stadium
7 and gave over 500-plus supplies, and we
8 constantly do provide uniforms as well to
9 those households that need -- for all
10 schools, not just Gary community, most
11 charters and any schools. We had nine
12 summer interns who did their usual eight
13 weeks of service. That turned out well.

14 State Board of Accounts has been here
15 and gone. Unfortunately, I can't discuss it
16 until they discuss it first, but wait on it.

17 We completed active shooter training
18 here that was conducted by the Lake County
19 Sheriff's Department. That was pretty
20 interesting. I understand that we didn't do
21 the most interactive one, like the Gary
22 Police does, with actual pellets. I'm not
23 sure if we're interested in that so -- and
24 currently, staff is working together for a
25 plan, as he suggested, on how -- because I

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1 think our security team has become a little
2 frightened as they will be the first
3 responder or the first person that will meet
4 a person if they came here for trouble. So
5 we're working on that.

6 We have a job fair training coming -- or
7 a job fair market training coming up
8 October 15th. Again, we're going to -- we
9 have decided that we'll have them twice a
10 year, one in the spring and one in the fall.
11 And we'll get it out in time, Mr. President.

12 Also, we had our appraisals completed
13 for 35 East. We had two, as the code calls
14 for us. We had quite a range, but we'll be
15 setting the price and putting it out.

16 And the most important is we had a
17 retirement back in July, so if we can have
18 Ms. Linda Collins-Brown come forward.

19 (APPLAUSE.)

20 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: So it says, "In a
21 appreciation for your 11 years of dedicated
22 service, devotion and commitment to the
23 Calumet Township Trustee's office, Kimberly
24 K. Robinson, Trustee, September 16, 2019."
25 And here's a small token of appreciation.

1 (APPLAUSE.)

2 MS. COLLINS-BROWN: Thank you. Thank
3 you so much.

4 (PICTURES WERE TAKEN.)

5 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Okay. I think that's
6 it. I did want to say in some of the
7 remarks that Mr. Dalton brought to our
8 attention about our budget that we have
9 submitted, and we are -- well, I am
10 fortunate to work with a great staff that
11 knows exactly what they're doing and how to
12 do it. And most importantly, they know how
13 to do a whole lot more with a whole lot
14 less, so I appreciate the staff and Gladys.
15 So thank you for that.

16 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Board comments?

17 MR. PIGGEE: May I ask --

18 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Well, wait, we're
19 going to get to you in a minute.

20 Do you have any comments?

21 MS. HOLMES: No, I do not.

22 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Do you have
23 something?

24 MR. PIGGEE: Ms. Trustee, is there a
25 word you can get out that you have here

1 information on jobs available right here in
2 this building? Because people in the city
3 do not know this. Ms. Owen and Ms. Pruitt
4 (phonetic) down state had different types of
5 jobs that's available, and is there some way
6 we can get it out to the community that it's
7 available?

8 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: We do -- go ahead.
9 Are you finished?

10 MR. PIGGEE: Yes, go ahead.

11 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I'm sorry. We do the
12 best we can do, and the jobs that we have
13 available or the job leads that we have
14 available, Mr. Piggee, go -- or Board Member
15 Piggee, they go to the people who come here.
16 So when the people come here for service, we
17 suggest that we have a room or a resource
18 room where you can work on a resume. You
19 can look at the job board for all types of
20 jobs. You can attend our job fair. You can
21 do all of that. So the word is out there.
22 But it's more so for the people when they
23 come here. We're not just the unemployment
24 office now.

25 MR. PIGGEE: Okay. Okay.

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1 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: So the people who
2 come here are fully aware of the guides that
3 we have for jobs and potential companies
4 that have come in. We have listings of
5 everyone who's here.

6 So if a company came today and said, "We
7 need six laborers," we may be able to go
8 through our files. And our case managers
9 are very diligent in keeping with, you know,
10 knowing what different people do since these
11 people, you know, are --

12 MR. PIGGEE: I'm glad you straightened
13 me out because I didn't quite understand. I
14 knew it was available, but I didn't know if
15 it was for everybody or just for the persons
16 that --

17 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: We try to work with
18 those people who come here --

19 MR. PIGGEE: -- come here for services.

20 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: -- first. Right.

21 MR. PIGGEE: Thank you for straightening
22 me out.

23 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Are you straight?

24 MR. PIGGEE: I'm straight.

25 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: I want to thank

1 the Trustee and the staff for the fine job
2 that you-all are doing keeping the Township
3 together. It is a very, very difficult job
4 that many people don't see or realize the
5 hard work that you do.

6 And in saying that, I would like the
7 staff to continue to work with the Trustee,
8 and I want you to start looking at your
9 individual areas and start looking at things
10 that could be done on a legislative level
11 that could help alleviate some of the tape,
12 that can alleviate some of the problems.

13 We've discussed it in prior meetings,
14 like, you know, wanting to be able to put
15 some kind of residency requirement on people
16 that come from a different state before they
17 get township assistance. So we would like
18 for you-all to start thinking and giving the
19 Trustee ideas and you-all just start --
20 let's build some kind of legislative agenda
21 before January gets here, so we can put our
22 state legislators to work on behalf of the
23 Township because we know the way the rest of
24 the state looks at us.

25 I was also here, along with Ms. Holmes

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1 and Mr. Piggee. And again, we can't speak
2 on it, but I would say I was pleased with
3 the outcome.

4 MR. PIGGEE: I was too.

5 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: And it reflects on
6 the great work that you-all do. So we want
7 to capitalize on that to let them know that
8 there are things that are very unfair to
9 this part of the state that our legislators
10 need to be fighting in Indianapolis for us
11 before everything gets so convoluted. But
12 if we have three or four pieces of
13 legislation that the Trustee and myself can
14 monitor. Indiana Association of Townships
15 would like board members to come to
16 Indianapolis because they keep a digest of
17 different bills that would affect us in a
18 positive and negative manner. Trustee has
19 been down there to speak at different
20 hearings. We've done it.

21 Another thing I want you-all to keep me
22 in prayer because I've tried to work with
23 the Town of Griffith. Okay. But Griffith
24 has made it abundantly clear that they do
25 not want to be a part of Cal Township. And

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1 so it feels -- and one thing that upsets me
2 and challenges me is that the State
3 continues to give Griffith multiple chances
4 to leave this Township. And the Trustee and
5 myself have been on bended knee and have
6 extended our open arms to work with them.
7 And the State -- and, again, it's a
8 Republican thing. I don't think it would
9 happen to any other Township that had a
10 predominantly minority population, but for
11 some instance they allow them to do what
12 they want to do.

13 So I'm probably going to bring this up
14 at the next meeting, but I want you-all to
15 meditate on this and let this sit with you.
16 I'm thinking about putting a motion to
17 suspend all meetings in Griffith until they
18 make a decision, until they -- because this
19 is my thing: I don't beg anybody to be a
20 part of this Township that doesn't want to
21 be a part of this Township. And if you
22 don't want to be here and you continue to
23 find ways to get out of here -- I know some
24 people say, well, you should keep them
25 involved. Well, they have an open door to

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1 drive here, also, and be a part of these
2 meetings.

3 This next meeting in October is the
4 budget, and it's here. So I want to say --
5 that's why I'm waiting until October. I
6 want to see how many people in Griffith will
7 actually come to Gary to look at this
8 Township Board and look at this budget that
9 we're getting ready to pass if what we're
10 doing is so important to you.

11 So again, I'm not putting the motion
12 now, but it's something I want the board
13 members to just think about because we have
14 extended our hand beyond to try to welcome
15 them, and it has been met with resistance
16 every step of the way.

17 Madam Trustee?

18 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I'm sorry in you
19 saying that, Mr. President. What I was
20 thinking is that if you ever wanted to meet
21 them halfway at the multi-purpose center,
22 that's always available. That was half of
23 the, you know, doing for that multi-purpose
24 center was sort of a gateway. And we have
25 also gone and taken measures in listening to

1 when we did go to Griffith that time and
2 putting the board minutes and everything
3 online so that people, you know, can have
4 clear direction to Gateway. So when people
5 do want information, they don't always have
6 to ask us. They can just -- or they can
7 still always call, but I'm just saying that
8 that was mentioned in Griffith so --

9 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: And Madam Trustee,
10 I will say this: You are very noble in your
11 kind words, but we know that when someone
12 wants a divorce and they've made up their
13 mind that they want a divorce, nine times
14 out of ten, they're not going to meet you
15 halfway. So my halfway point before I put
16 this motion on the table is going to be
17 between now and the meeting in October.

18 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Okay.

19 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: And again, I'm
20 going to regulate that based on how many
21 people from Griffith come out here to see
22 what their tax dollars are being spent for.
23 I don't believe they really care because,
24 again, they've been granted another
25 opportunity because -- let me give you some

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1 background. The state law stated if they
2 couldn't find a township by the end of last
3 year, they would have to stay in Cal
4 Township. But the governor and the
5 legislators allowed them to usurp the law
6 and give them an extra year to do that.
7 Okay. And so, again, we're proud people.
8 We are blessed people. We don't beg anybody
9 to be blessed through Calumet Township.

10 And with that being said, the Chair
11 would like to entertain a motion for
12 adjournment. All in favor signify by
13 saying, "Aye."

14 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

15 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Those opposed say,
16 "Nay."

17 The ayes have it.

18 Have a blessed evening.

19
20 (TOWNSHIP MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6:50 P.M.)

21
22
23
24
25

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

3 THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
4 GARY, INDIANA

7 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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.

18 Signed this 23rd day of September, 2019.

19
20 

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

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

25

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

4 THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
5 GARY, INDIANA

6
7 These minutes of the Calumet Township Board
8 meeting held on September 16, 2019, were approved by
9 the Board of Trustees on the 21st day of
10 October, 2019.

11
12 Darren Washington
13 Darren Washington, Board Chairman

14 Jacqueline Holmes
15 Jacqueline Holmes, Secretary

16
17 James Piggee
18 James Piggee, Board Member

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