

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

*September 17, 2018
REGULAR MEETING*

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

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Original File 09-17-18 Calumet Township.txt
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REGULAR MEETING

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

4 THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
5 GARY, INDIANA
6
7

8 REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had at the meeting
9 before the Calumet Township Board of Trustees,
10 reported by Kristen K. Stokes, CSR, Notary Public in
11 and for the County of Lake, State of Indiana, taken
12 at the Calumet Township Trustee Building, 610
13 Connecticut Street, Gary, Indiana, on September 17,
14 2018, scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. in the
15 evening.
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REGULAR MEETING

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APPEARANCES:

- Clorius Lay, Board Chairman
- Darren Washington, Board Member
- Mary Ann Canty-Reedus, Secretary
- Kimberly Robinson, Township Trustee
- Sherita Smith, Chief Deputy
- Romeka Bonds, Executive Secretary
- Deidre Monroe, Board Attorney
- Rinzer Williams, III, Township Attorney
- Steve Dalton, Township Accountant
- Gladys Miller, Finance Manager
- and
- Members of the Public

* * * * *

REGULAR MEETING

3

1 CHAIRMAN LAY: First is the Pledge of
2 Allegiance. Second is roll call.

3 (EVERYONE STOOD FOR THE PLEDGE OF
4 ALLEGIANCE.)

5 CHAIRMAN LAY: Roll call.

6 MS. BONDS: Mr. Darren Washington?

7 MR. WASHINGTON: Present.

8 MS. BONDS: Ms. Mary Ann Canty-Reedus?

9 MS. CANTY-REEDUS: Present.

10 MS. BONDS: Mr. Clorius Lay?

11 CHAIRMAN LAY: Present. Three are
12 present is sufficient number to conduct a
13 meeting.

14 The first item on the agenda is the
15 approval of the minutes from February 12th,
16 2018. Do I have a motion?

17 MR. WASHINGTON: Mr. President, I'll
18 make a motion that we approve the minutes of
19 February 12th, 2018.

20 MS. CANTY-REEDUS: I second it.

21 CHAIRMAN LAY: It's been properly moved
22 and seconded. Roll Call.

23 MS. BONDS: Mr. Washington?

24 MR. WASHINGTON: Yes.

25 MS. BONDS: Ms. Reedus?

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1 MS. CANTY-REEDUS: Yes.

2 MS. BONDS: Chairman Lay?

3 CHAIRMAN LAY: Yes.

4 Three yeses, no nos. The minutes are
5 approved.

6 The next item on the agenda, No. 3, is
7 the Resolution 2018-03, and that's the 2019
8 operational budget.

9 Madam Chairman -- I'm sorry, Madam
10 Trustee.

11 MS. ROBINSON: Good evening. I will
12 defer to Steve Dalton for commentary.

13 MR. DALTON: Good evening, everyone,
14 Mr. President.

15 ALL PRESENT: Good evening.

16 MR. DALTON: I'll direct your attention
17 to the first page which doesn't match, the
18 Resolution 2018-03. You may ask why the
19 first page says, "Ordinance," instead of
20 "Resolution," and that's because Gateway
21 will only let us use that word. They won't
22 let us change that to resolution. It's not
23 an error we've made.

24 The document in front of you cannot be
25 passed this evening during the public

1 hearing portion of reviewing the budget.
2 We'll be seeing this document again when we
3 reconvene on October 15th for the adoption
4 hearing.

5 Second page is the Notice to Taxpayers.
6 That's been called Form 3, a document that
7 was filed on Gateway on August 20th, 28 days
8 ago, which is sufficient for the 10-day
9 notice requirement to advertise this meeting
10 and the adoption meeting on October 15th.
11 That document lists the budgets for each of
12 the five funds that we've proposed -- the
13 Trustee has proposed, the levies for each of
14 the five funds that the Trustee has
15 proposed. And then there's a comparison in
16 column five to the current 2018 property tax
17 levies for the public to see the difference
18 between the two.

19 You also have in a stapled form,
20 landscaped version of the Form 1, which is a
21 line-item detail of the budgets for each of
22 the five funds. I could answer specific
23 questions about the line-item details. You
24 have them. You know how that normally
25 works. I turn to Gladys to get the

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1 specifics because she's the one in the books
2 every day.

3 And then, lastly, is the Form 4B, the
4 one with all the lines on it. We call it,
5 professionally, the 17-line statement. And
6 that's the income statement, if you will,
7 for the next 18 months, showing what we
8 would like to spend and what we anticipate
9 the revenues being. The deal just
10 challenged and charged to only approve a
11 budget that you can fund. You can only fund
12 a budget with your anticipated revenues and
13 the cash that you have on hand. You're not
14 allowed to spend more than you're going to
15 bring in or have in terms of cash in the
16 next 18 months, and that's what this 17-line
17 4B shows for each of those five funds. It
18 is the Trustee's request that you entertain
19 a public hearing this evening and entertain
20 adoption on October 15th.

21 CHAIRMAN LAY: Okay. Is there any
22 questions you have, Mr. Washington?

23 MR. WASHINGTON: No, sir.

24 CHAIRMAN LAY: Ms. Reedus, did you have
25 any questions?

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1 MS. CANTY-REEDUS: No, sir.

2 CHAIRMAN LAY: I have one. This is a
3 little bit away. Is Griffith still part of
4 the Township?

5 MR. DALTON: Currently, Griffith is
6 still part of the Township. I believe
7 there's a referendum pending after which
8 date they could begin negotiations, if they
9 won that referendum, to leave the Township.

10 CHAIRMAN LAY: It wouldn't affect this
11 budget though?

12 MR. DALTON: I don't believe it could
13 happen by January 1st.

14 MR. WASHINGTON: Mr. Chairman, if I'm
15 not mistaken, I think, even if they voted to
16 leave, they still wouldn't be able to leave
17 the Township probably until 2020 because it
18 still would have to -- they would have to
19 find another Township. And then I think
20 they would have to vote to be accepted, and
21 that could be rejected. So I think it's
22 still a process before they would actually
23 separate from Calumet Township even if they
24 actually won the referendum.

25 That other Township would actually have

1 to approve them to actually be a part, and
2 they may say no, and then they would have to
3 come back here anyway.

4 CHAIRMAN LAY: I agree that that's
5 pretty much the process. I just wanted to
6 know for sure for the purpose of this
7 budget, they are still here. That's my
8 question.

9 MR. WASHINGTON: My point, Mr. Chairman,
10 is they might still be a part of the budget
11 until -- for 2019, also.

12 CHAIRMAN LAY: Yeah, right. I know.

13 MS. ROBINSON: Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry.
14 Mr. Dalton made a statement of speaking with
15 Gladys. I just wanted you all to know that
16 Gladys Miller is our new Deputy of Finance.
17 I'm not sure if you knew that. She was the
18 assistant to Ms. Roberts, and so we just
19 moved her up.

20 MR. WASHINGTON: Congratulations.

21 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN LAY: Before I go any further,
23 I would like to knowledge that Ms. Jackie
24 Holmes is here. She is a democratic
25 nominee, but in Lake County Calumet I

1 believe she will win with flying colors, so
2 I'm glad to see she came out.

3 Well, the public hearing is now open.
4 If someone from the public wants to address
5 any part of this budget, you're welcome to
6 do so.

7 (A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC ENTERED.)

8 The public hearing -- I believe you
9 weren't here at the very beginning, but the
10 budget is now -- if you have any questions
11 on the budget, although you were not
12 present, you certainly can ask those
13 questions.

14 (NO RESPONSE.)

15 CHAIRMAN LAY: Hearing none, seeing
16 none, the public voicing is closed.

17 The next item on the agenda, there's a
18 salary budget. It's Resolution 2018-04. I
19 assume Mr. Dalton is going to explain that,
20 also.

21 MR. DALTON: I assume that's true.

22 MS. ROBINSON: Sure.

23 MR. DALTON: You have in front of you a
24 salary resolution, which closely resembles
25 the salary resolution that you have approved

1 over the last couple of years. If you have
2 specific questions about any changes or the
3 ranges for each job title, I'll have to
4 defer to Ms. Sherita, but there are no major
5 changes. This doesn't -- nobody has been
6 slipped a raised. There's no gamesmanship
7 going on here.

8 We've continued to improve the documents
9 so that you can see it better. If you
10 recall, it was way too small last year.
11 And we made improvements so that the job
12 titles match the jobs that people are
13 actually doing and have some ranges so that
14 the Trustee can make decisions based on the
15 experience and the timeliness of the
16 employees that work in those job titles.

17 CHAIRMAN LAY: So you made it bigger so
18 we can see everything that's listed.

19 MR. DALTON: We made it bigger,
20 increased the size of the font.

21 CHAIRMAN LAY: Next is -- Mr.
22 Washington, do you have any questions?

23 MR. WASHINGTON: No questions. Just a
24 request, that I would like for the board
25 members to have -- I know this is an

1 executive session, if it needs to be, but
2 H.R. issues, I would like, at the least, for
3 the current board members to have the
4 document before them on the 15th to show the
5 names of the individuals and what they're
6 making just in these positions. That's my
7 request.

8 CHAIRMAN LAY: That can't be filed
9 today.

10 MR. WASHINGTON: No. I don't need it
11 today. You can get it to us --

12 CHAIRMAN LAY: It's just something that
13 you wanted --

14 MR. WASHINGTON: Yeah.

15 CHAIRMAN LAY: -- at the next board
16 meeting.

17 MR. WASHINGTON: Yeah. Board members,
18 not just me. I mean --

19 CHAIRMAN LAY: No. I'm sure.

20 MR. WASHINGTON: Not for the public
21 because it's executive H.R. stuff so --

22 CHAIRMAN LAY: Madam Trustee, we can
23 provide that; right?

24 MS. ROBINSON: Sure. But I'd like to
25 have it in writing, though, whatever you're

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1 requesting.

2 MR. WASHINGTON: Absolutely.

3 CHAIRMAN LAY: Ms. Reedus, now, do you
4 have any questions?

5 MS. CANTY-REEDUS: No, sir. I'm good.

6 CHAIRMAN LAY: I don't have any.

7 Anyone in the public?

8 Ms. Holmes, do you have any questions on
9 the budget? This is the budget you're going
10 to be operating under.

11 Anyone else have questions concerning
12 the budget?

13 (NO RESPONSE.)

14 CHAIRMAN LAY: Hearing none, seeing
15 none, I guess the operational and salary
16 budget is now closed for the year 2019.

17 The next item on the agenda are the
18 public comments.

19 Is there anyone from the public that
20 would like to have comments? Is there
21 anyone from the public that would like to
22 have comments?

23 (NO RESPONSE.)

24 CHAIRMAN LAY: Hearing none, seeing
25 none, the public portion is closed.

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1 Again, Ms. Holmes, I would extend you
2 the special courtesy to you if you want to
3 say anything at this point.

4 MS. HOLMES: I just came up to observe.
5 Thank you very much.

6 CHAIRMAN LAY: That's fine.

7 Okay. Trustee, do you have any
8 comments?

9 MS. ROBINSON: I just have two comments.
10 I made one of introducing you all to Gladys.
11 And the other one is that we are working on
12 having an appraisal done for the 35 East 5th
13 Avenue property because we have had
14 inquiries of perhaps purchase, so we just
15 wanted to be fair, like we have with all the
16 other properties, and we are using the same
17 two appraisers that we used for the other
18 companies -- for the other properties.
19 Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN LAY: I have no questions at
21 this time. It was mentioned to me previous
22 about the appraisal. I have no objections.

23 Mr. Washington, do you have any
24 objections to the appraisal.

25 MR. WASHINGTON: No.

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1 CHAIRMAN LAY: Ms. Reedus?

2 MS. CANTY-REEDUS: No.

3 CHAIRMAN LAY: Hearing none, seeing
4 none, we can proceed.

5 MS. ROBINSON: Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN LAY: Anything else?

7 MS. ROBINSON: No.

8 CHAIRMAN LAY: Do you have anything to
9 say, Ms. Reedus?

10 MS. CANTY-REED: Ms. Holmes, I hope
11 everything works out fine for you. It's
12 been a pleasure to be part of the board.
13 Maybe I'll see you again at a board meeting.

14 MS. ROBINSON: You've got one more
15 meeting. You'll see us next time.

16 MS. CANTY-REEDUS: I do.

17 CHAIRMAN LAY: Mr. Washington, do you
18 have anything to say?

19 MR. WASHINGTON: Yes. I would like to
20 thank everyone during the May primary who
21 voted for me and gave me another vote of
22 confidence to remain on the Township Board.
23 I thank you for your vote. Even those that
24 didn't vote for me, I'm going to do my best
25 to do the best job I can as a Trustee, that

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1 hopefully the next time I run for office
2 that I can earn your vote.

3 I would like to give a congratulatory
4 hello to Ms. Jackie Holmes, who's here
5 today. I look forward to working with her
6 on the Township Board. And then also
7 Mr. James Piggy, who was one of my coaches
8 in high school, and he will also be on the
9 board, so I want to say congratulations to
10 them.

11 And Mr. Chairman, I also have a request
12 from the administration. And I will also,
13 as Trustee, ask to put these things in
14 writing, but I want to put them down for the
15 record. Number one, I wanted to have for
16 myself and also the board members, a list of
17 all the Calumet Township professional
18 service contracts, expenditures from 2000 --
19 beginning of this year up until today
20 September 17, 2018. I want board members to
21 have the expected Cal Township expenditures
22 from today's September 17th through
23 December 31st of 2018. And I also want
24 names of businesses and owners of the listed
25 Calumet Township professional service

1 contracts. If I'm not mistaken, this comes
2 out of the Fund 0601.

3 And if I have any other requests, I will
4 put them in writing, but I wanted those down
5 for the record, and I will provide that
6 request by way of board members and the
7 attorneys and the Trustee and her attorneys.

8 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9 CHAIRMAN LAY: I do have a question.
10 You used the date December 31st. What --

11 MR. WASHINGTON: Of 2018. I'm looking
12 at projected possibilities. I'm thinking of
13 today until the end of the year. Because
14 after we have a meeting on the 15th, I want
15 to know if we're going to have another one
16 before the end of the year.

17 CHAIRMAN LAY: Trustee, do you have a
18 comment on that?

19 MS. ROBINSON: For Mr. Washington, I
20 know that I think you asked for that at the
21 beginning of the year, and we gave it to
22 you, so you probably just wanted the
23 amounts, like you did before, from then
24 until now?

25 MR. WASHINGTON: Yeah. And what I'll

1 do, just to be on the safe side, I'll put it
2 in writing like you requested, so I can
3 actually make sure the dates -- because I
4 don't want you to have to give me anything
5 that you already gave me.

6 MS. ROBINSON: Okay.

7 CHAIRMAN LAY: Ms. Reedus, do you any
8 have questions about what Mr. Washington
9 just asked?

10 MS. CANTY-REEDUS: No.

11 CHAIRMAN LAY: I have none.

12 Since I know we're coming back again,
13 I'll save my comments until later. On
14 October the 15th we will have a meeting of
15 six men where we will approve -- or I should
16 say we will vote on the budget for sure, and
17 we'll get that out of the way. I would hope
18 that -- how long -- assuming you put it in
19 writing in the next couple of days, how long
20 would it be before he got -- received
21 whatever he was now asking for?

22 MS. ROBINSON: As soon as we get it,
23 we'll get it to him in a timely manner.

24 CHAIRMAN LAY: So you have plenty of
25 time.

1 MS. ROBINSON: Yes, sir.

2 CHAIRMAN LAY: Now, Mr. Dalton, you
3 mentioned something again. There's certain
4 things about Gateway I don't understand.
5 There is some documents, I guess, that have
6 not been -- this has not been given to the
7 public; right? (Indicating).

8 MR. DALTON: This document called the
9 Form 1, the landscaped version, it has not
10 been released to the public. The only
11 document the public has access to on Gateway
12 is the Notice to Taxpayers.

13 CHAIRMAN LAY: So they will not get this
14 at all until after it's passed?

15 MR. DALTON: It's not required to be
16 released until after it's adopted. You
17 could choose to release anything that you
18 want.

19 CHAIRMAN LAY: No, no. I was just
20 trying to find out -- as I mentioned before,
21 some of these things I honestly don't know.
22 Okay. I just wanted the board to know that
23 there will be a document that we will
24 receive that will not be given to the
25 public, and that's based on statutory law,

1 until after it's passed, which is fine.

2 MR. WASHINGTON: Mr. Chairman.

3 CHAIRMAN LAY: Yes.

4 MR. WASHINGTON: Also, the public can
5 also go to that website and pull that
6 information down if they wanted to.

7 MR. DALTON: They can only pull -- what
8 Mr. Chairman is pointing out is that they
9 can only pull the one document, the Notice
10 to Taxpayers. None of the other documents
11 have been publicly released.

12 MR. WASHINGTON: Okay.

13 CHAIRMAN LAY: Personally, I don't think
14 you'll get much out of that Notice to the
15 Taxpayers, but they are doing the same thing
16 over at the school system, but it's not our
17 fault. That's basically the way the law is.

18 All right. Is there any other
19 questions?

20 I know the scruffy gentleman came in
21 late. Would you like to address the
22 board? You have the right to do so on any
23 issues.

24 (NO RESPONSE.)

25 CHAIRMAN LAY: Hearing none, seeing

1 none.

2 MR. WASHINGTON: Oh, Mr. Chairman.

3 CHAIRMAN LAY: Yes.

4 MR. WASHINGTON: I would also
5 encourage -- I talked to Mr. Piggy about
6 this and then to Ms. Holmes. We may want to
7 consider next year having more consistent
8 meetings instead of having them as a needed
9 basis. We probably need to look at, as a
10 board, going forward next year, having
11 meetings at least once a month. Even if
12 there's no business, maybe someone from the
13 public or staff may want to come in and let
14 their voices be known.

15 So a lot of times we don't have meetings
16 until as needed, which is understandable,
17 but to a certain extent, Calumet Township,
18 other townships, they have been -- have been
19 actually targeted by the Indiana legislature
20 for disbandment. And we barely got out of a
21 situation this year, and I think it's
22 diligent upon us in the future to, at the
23 very least, have meetings at least once a
24 month to let the public know that we're here
25 anytime for them to come and make their

1 concerns.

2 That's it's, Mr. Chairman.

3 CHAIRMAN LAY: I actually could have
4 made that motion now. Do I have a motion
5 for adjournment?

6 MR. WASHINGTON: So moved.

7 MS. CANTY-REEDUS: I second it.

8 CHAIRMAN LAY: Meeting adjourned. Thank
9 you.

10

11 (PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED AT 6:25 PM.)

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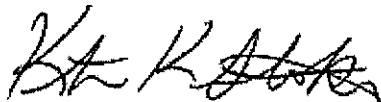
1 STATE OF INDIANA)
 2 COUNTY OF LAKE) SS:

3 THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
 4 GARY, INDIANA
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 7
 8 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
 9

10
 11 I, KRISTEN K. STOKES, CSR, Notary Public in
 12 and for the County of Lake, State of Indiana, do
 13 hereby certify that I reported in machine shorthand
 14 the foregoing proceedings had in the above-entitled
 15 matter, at the time and place herein set forth; and
 16 I do further certify that the foregoing transcript,
 17 is a true and correct transcript of my said
 18 stenographic notes.
 19

20 Signed this 20th day of September, 2018.

21 


22
 23 KRISTEN K. STOKES
 CSR# 084-003723
 24 My Commission Expires: 8/27/23
 Notary Public: Lake County, Indiana
 25

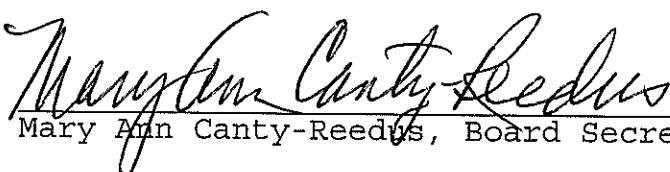
1 STATE OF INDIANA)
2) SS:
3 COUNTY OF LAKE)

4 THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
5 GARY, INDIANA

6
7 These minutes of THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP BOARD
8 OF TRUSTEES held on September 17, 2018, were
9 approved by the Board of Trustees on the 15th day
10 of October, 2018.

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13 _____
Clorius Lay, Board Chairman

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16 _____
Darren Washington, Board Member

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19 _____
Mary Ann Canty-Reedus, Board Secretary

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**BEFORE THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

REGULAR MEETING

September 17, 2018

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|----------|---|---|---|--|---|
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