

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

*September 18, 2017
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)

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

8 REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had at the meeting
9 before the Calumet Township Board of Trustees,
10 reported by Beth A. Barnette, CSR and Notary Public,
11 Illinois License No. 084-004727, at the Calumet
12 Township Trustee Building, 610 Connecticut Street,
13 Gary, Indiana, on the 18th day of September, 2017,
14 at 6:02 o'clock in the evening.

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APPEARANCES:

Darren Washington, Board Chairman

Clorius Lay, Board Member

Mary Ann Canty-Reedus, Board Member/Secretary

Sherita Smith, Chief Deputy

Denise Roberts, Deputy

Kimberly Robinson, Township Trustee

Romeka Bonds, Executive Secretary

Rinzer Williams, III, Township Attorney

Steve Dalton, Finance Consultant

and

Members of the Public

* * *

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1 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Ladies and
2 gentlemen, welcome to the Township Board of
3 Trustees meeting. Today is September 18,
4 2017. May we have roll call, please?

5 MS. BONDS: Mr. Clorius Lay?

6 MR. LAY: Here.

7 MS. BONDS: Miss Mary Ann
8 Canty-Reedus?

9 MS. REEDUS: Present.

10 MS. BONDS: Mr. Darren Washington.

11 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Here. With
12 all the Board members present, we have enough
13 for a quorum.

14 Item No. 1 for today, the approval
15 of the Board minutes for the meeting of
16 June 14, 2017. Mr. Chairman would like to
17 make a motion to approve the minutes of
18 June 14, 2017. Is there a second?

19 MR. LAY: I second.

20 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Hearing a
21 second. Is there any discussion by any Board
22 members or any members of the Administration
23 regarding the minutes?

24 MS. ROBINSON: No.

25 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay.

1 Hearing none. May we have a roll call?

2 MS. BONDS: Mr. Lay?

3 MR. LAY: Yes.

4 MS. BONDS: Miss Reedus?

5 MS. REEDUS: Yes.

6 MS. BONDS: Mr. Washington.

7 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes. With
8 three yes, zero nays, the motion carries for
9 the approval of the minutes of June 14, 2017.

10 The next two items on our agenda
11 are for information purposes only, and this is
12 the public hearing section for Item No. 2 and
13 3. For the first item, Resolution 2017-03,
14 that is the 2018 operation budget. I will
15 turn that over to Madam Trustee and her
16 department.

17 MS. ROBINSON: I will ask that
18 Mr. Steve Dalton please explain.

19 MR. DALTON: Thank you, members of
20 the Board. I would direct your attention to
21 the easiest of the pages, which is Page 2 in
22 your packet, entitled Notice to Taxpayers. It
23 is the DGLF called Form 3. It's a notice that
24 was published on Gateway.

25 The proposed budgets in the first

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1 column, proposed levies in the second column,
2 and then a comparison in the fourth column to
3 the current year, the 2017 levies. All the
4 pages behind Page 2 are the details that
5 support this specific summary page. The first
6 page is the ordinance that will be adopted at
7 the next meeting. So the second page really
8 is the information that has been made public
9 on Gateway with the detail on all the
10 supporting pages.

11 I can answer any questions that
12 you have about the supporting pages. I have
13 this funny feeling you'd rather I not read
14 them all to you, but I'm glad to answer any
15 questions on specifics.

16 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Any
17 questions by Board members?

18 MR. LAY: Mr. Dalton, is
19 Mr. Rinzer paid out of the operating budget on
20 a 1099? How is he paid?

21 MR. DALTON: Mr. Rinzer?

22 MR. LAY: Yes.

23 MR. DALTON: Which budget is
24 Mr. Rinzer paid out of?

25 MR. LAY: Yes.

1 MR. DALTON: The general, civil.

2 MR. LAY: He's given a 1099 or a

3 W-2?

4 MS. ROBERTS: 1099.

5 MR. LAY: Are all the attorneys
6 paid out of that same budget?

7 MR. DALTON: As far as I know, all
8 attorneys are paid out of that budget. I
9 don't know that we've approved any invoices
10 out of any other budgets, sir.

11 MR. LAY: I'm sorry?

12 MR. DALTON: I think that you're
13 correct in that statement.

14 MR. LAY: I was using him as an
15 example. Okay. Nothing else.

16 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay.

17 Ms. Reedus, do you have any questions?

18 MS. REEDUS: No.

19 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Madam
20 Trustee?

21 MS. ROBINSON: No, sir.

22 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Mr. Dalton,
23 do you have something else?

24 MR. DALTON: I do not.

25 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: At this

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1 time, this is a public hearing on
2 Resolution 2017-03. If there is anybody in
3 the public that would like to make comments
4 regarding Resolution 2017-03, the 2018
5 operation budget, you have the floor to make
6 some comments at this time.

7 Is there anyone who would like to
8 make comments based on what was provided
9 today? And again, today is information. This
10 budget will be voted on at the October 16
11 meeting next month. But the floor is now open
12 for anyone who would like to make comments
13 regarding that.

14 If you could come to the
15 microphone and state your name.

16 MS. WADE: LaVetta Sparks-Wade,
17 6th District, City of Gary. My question is in
18 regards to the conference in Aruba that was
19 taken and whether or not that funding that was
20 reimbursed by the township, whether it was
21 approved by this Board. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Any comments
23 by Board members regarding the question? Do
24 you want to handle it in Comments?

25 MR. LAY: That was in the -- we

1 handled that somewhere around February in the
2 annual report. We don't have any of those
3 figures here today. I would assume that would
4 be something she could acquire through the
5 Freedom of Information Act by simply asking, I
6 think. It's not in our figures. We don't
7 have those accounts before us.

8 I can say that this Board -- it's
9 how we handled the annual report becomes
10 somewhat confusing. The annual report passed,
11 which would have been February. I believe it
12 was February the annual report passed on a two
13 to one vote. And the reimbursement was in
14 that annual report.

15 MS. WADE: Okay. Thank you very
16 much.

17 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Madam
18 Trustee, any comments?

19 MS. ROBINSON: You just made the
20 announcement that our meeting for passage was
21 October --

22 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: 16th.

23 MS. ROBINSON: And it's actually
24 October 23rd.

25 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: We changed

1 that. I forgot. I stand corrected. The next
2 meeting to approve the annual budget would be
3 October 23rd, at 6:00 p.m. here. Thank you,
4 Madam Chair.

5 MS. ROBINSON: Yes.

6 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Ms. Reedus,
7 any comments?

8 MS. REEDUS: No.

9 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. I'll
10 reserve my comments to the Public Comments at
11 the end of the meeting.

12 Again, this is just for the
13 public's comment and presented for the public.
14 So the next item is Item No. 3, Resolution
15 2017-04, the 2018 salary budget. Madam
16 Trustee.

17 MS. ROBINSON: I would again refer
18 to Mr. Dalton, our financial advisor.

19 MR. DALTON: What you have in
20 front of you is a poorly constructed document.
21 I will say that because I constructed it. And
22 if I could use the term scrivener's error, I
23 would, but I think that I have some errors on
24 the document that that may not cover the
25 errors. I used the wrong template.

1 It was the intention of the
2 Trustee to submit to you a salary resolution
3 with exactly zero changes for 2017. I
4 erringly used the wrong template and you have
5 a salary resolution with substantial job title
6 changes that were not intended by the Trustee.
7 And, therefore, if you wanted to, you could
8 remove this from the agenda, table it, or take
9 no action at all because it's coming back up
10 in a month anyway. But you'll be given a new
11 resolution with the correct titles. There
12 will be no changes in salary.

13 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay.

14 MR. DALTON: And my apologies.

15 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: No problem.

16 Any questions by the Board members?

17 MR. LAY: I'm not sure Mr. Dalton
18 can do it that way. In other words, the
19 public -- this is for the public to understand
20 what's going on.

21 MR. DALTON: That's correct.

22 MR. LAY: Your suggestion that we
23 will get something at a subsequent meeting,
24 you expect us to pass it at that meeting?

25 MR. DALTON: Absolutely.

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1 MR. LAY: When will the public
2 know? Will they know at the same time you're
3 asking us to pass it?

4 MR. DALTON: Yes. And I would
5 also direct your thought to the fact that
6 although the budget is required to be heard in
7 two readings, the salary resolution is not.
8 It could be introduced and heard in one
9 meeting.

10 MR. LAY: Okay.

11 MR. DALTON: This is not an
12 intention to trick you guys.

13 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: No, no.

14 MR. LAY: I understand. I may be
15 on the edge of firing you, but I understand.
16 I don't know. I will go along with whatever
17 the Board decides on this.

18 MS. REEDUS: You're saying that
19 the salaries are the same, but it's the
20 positions. Is that what you mean?

21 MR. DALTON: I used the wrong
22 titles. Two years ago we changed titles from
23 deputies to mangers, and I did not use the
24 right template. And so, therefore, I used the
25 old titles.

1 MS. REEDUS: Okay.

2 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Well,
3 tonight, again, Resolution 2017-04, the 2018
4 salary budget, is here for the public also to
5 make comments. Is there anyone that would
6 like to comment on Resolution 2017-04, the
7 proposed 2018 salary budget? If there is,
8 come up to the mike and announce your name and
9 make your comments.

10 Hearing none. At this point, we
11 would have Public Comments. So if there's
12 anyone in the audience that would like to make
13 public comment before the Board, you may
14 approach and make comments.

15 MS. WADE: I probably made my
16 comment at the wrong portion because this was
17 the 2018 budget that you all are getting ready
18 to pass. So, at this time I would like to
19 address the situation in regards to the
20 conference that occurred where our Trustee and
21 our Deputy Trustee went to Aruba and was
22 reimbursed at the approval of this Board. I
23 know it happened afterwards.

24 Now, the approval happened after
25 the conference had actually been held. But I

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1 think that as fiscal managers that we need to
2 take a closer look at those types of
3 activities. I don't think that an office
4 charged with providing services to the
5 indigent should be as irresponsible as our
6 leadership was in going to Aruba, instead of
7 using those dollars stateside. We -- plenty
8 of conferences to go to here in the United
9 States. To go to a Caribbean island, and it's
10 difficult because -- it's difficult to
11 understand because we're in a fight with
12 Griffith to maintain the township as is and we
13 do something as irresponsible as going to
14 Aruba to a conference.

15 I would hope that our Trustee, in
16 hindsight, would reimburse the township, would
17 think about what was done, and do the right
18 thing this time. Thank you. And I hope that
19 I get a comment back from both the Board and
20 the Trustee.

21 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Thank you.
22 Any other Calumet Township residents or public
23 that would like to make comments? Anybody?
24 Okay. Hearing none. We will go to our
25 Trustee for her comments. Madam Trustee.

1 MS. ROBINSON: I have one comment,
2 Mr. Chair. If we could just for our future
3 board meetings add the Pledge of Allegiance
4 before we start our meetings, I would like for
5 you guys to continue that.

6 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: That's no
7 problem.

8 MS. ROBINSON: And ask that be
9 added to the agenda. Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Absolutely.
11 Board Comments. Ms. Canty-Reedus?

12 MS. REEDUS: None.

13 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Mr. Lay,
14 Board Comments?

15 MR. LAY: Yes. I think
16 unintentionally you misstated the facts. What
17 was approved was the annual report. We didn't
18 vote on an individual item. I think the
19 minutes will reflect that at least two, maybe
20 three of us spoke against the Aruba trip. So
21 when you said approved, the annual report is a
22 non-audited report. It's not even audited by
23 the State Board of Accounts. It is just
24 simply to direct them to where maybe possibly
25 they should look, but I don't even think they

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1 use it for that purpose. It's probably an
2 antiquated report that should be gotten rid
3 of.

4 So there was no issue of voting on
5 Aruba. It's whether or not we approve the
6 annual report. I personally voted against the
7 entire annual report. There were other items
8 that I disagreed with also. That was my only
9 comment. Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: My comments
11 before -- Attorney, do you have any comments
12 you wish to make?

13 MS. MONROE: No.

14 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. Thank
15 you everyone for coming out today. First of
16 all, I would like to inform the public, if
17 they do not know, that our Board member
18 Attorney Clorius Lay was awarded with the SAG
19 Award down in Wabash, so if could we give him
20 a round of applause.

21 (All applause.)

22 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: As he sits
23 there thumbing through papers, making like not
24 really paying attention.

25 MR. LAY: No.

1 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Would you
2 like to give any comments about the award that
3 you received?

4 MR. LAY: No, other than I
5 certainly -- I invoke that I am also a
6 Distinguished Hoosier, and I received that in
7 2001 from Frank O'Bannon. I received the SAG
8 Award August the 3rd. I must give
9 Representative Earl Harris, Jr. from
10 East Chicago credit. I call him my advocator,
11 as well as my presenter. I'm not sure that I
12 would have received it if I hadn't had someone
13 so as forceful as he apparently was. It took
14 them some time. I assume they were vetting me
15 for about nine months. I do have the award
16 with me. I was going to show it to you,
17 Mr. Washington.

18 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: You have it
19 with you now?

20 MR. LAY: It's downstairs.

21 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Do you have
22 it in your car?

23 MR. LAY: Yes.

24 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay.

25 MR. LAY: (Inaudible) But, no,

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1 it's something that I wanted for some time.
2 Like I said, the first time I attempted to get
3 it was 2001. I really didn't think I would
4 ever get it from a Republican governor. I
5 thought my only chance to get it would be if a
6 Democrat was in office. So I was wrong from
7 that standpoint. A lot of people have called
8 and I really appreciate it. What I'm
9 ultimately going to do with this award is to
10 give it to my grandson. He's 18 months, but
11 that's something I will leave him so he will
12 have some understanding of what his
13 grandfather is. But I'm very happy to have
14 received the award.

15 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Well,
16 well-deserving, Mr. Lay.

17 My comments tonight will be brief.
18 First of all, to the Ms. 6th District
19 Councilwoman who came and spoke today, to
20 answer your question, no, the Board does not
21 have authority to approve and not approve
22 reimbursement of expenditures because the
23 Trustee can do that on her own. Regarding the
24 trip that she took, she made a case for that
25 trip that she took, and in the Board meeting

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1 minutes she also acknowledged that the
2 majority of the Board did not agree with that.
3 So I agree with Mr. Lay, those are in the
4 minutes.

5 Again, as he stated, the annual
6 report is a reflection of everything that
7 happens that year and he did not approve it.
8 Mary and myself approved it, and my exception
9 was the trip to Aruba. So the Trustee can
10 speak intelligently on the things that she
11 does. And other than that, it's in the
12 minutes, so there's really no need to go
13 beyond that. We expressed how we felt about
14 that, and the Trustee has her reasons for what
15 she does and only she can speak for herself.

16 The next thing I would like for
17 the Administration to provide the Board
18 members regarding the budget before the next
19 meeting, can we have a list of the
20 professional service contracts for 2017 up to
21 today's date. And then if you see any
22 forecasted expenditures between today,
23 September 18th and December 31st, can you
24 provide us what you think you may spend in
25 that three-month time period.

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1 But give us what has already been
2 paid out with those professional service
3 contracts, the name of those companies, the
4 owners of those companies, and regarding
5 specifically the fund 0601, which is community
6 buildings/services. We also want to see the
7 professional service and contractual services,
8 all moneys that were paid out in that building
9 fund this year and what business and who that
10 is, the owner of that business. Because I
11 think before we approve the budget for 2018,
12 we kind of need something to compare,
13 especially when it comes to professional
14 services and contracts, and look at what we
15 already spent in 2017 as we look forward to
16 approving a budget for 2018.

17 And so again, everything for 2017
18 up to today, September 18th. And if you could
19 provide us with what you forecast you may
20 spend between September 18th and
21 December 31st, we would like that forecast
22 also because I know me, I'm requesting this,
23 but I don't want other Board members not to
24 have that information also, so we can be able
25 to look at '17 and then be able to adequately

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1 vote for 2018 because we may have some
2 questions.

3 Let me ask a question. If there
4 is a disagreement and we don't have enough
5 votes to pass the budget on October 23rd, is
6 that the final date or are we able to schedule
7 another meeting before the end of the year?

8 MR. DALTON: We have to schedule
9 another meeting before the end of that month,
10 before the end of October.

11 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay.

12 MR. DALTON: We have to be able to
13 adopt prior to November 1st so that it can be
14 released into the DLGF's Gateway system on
15 November 1st. So we would have one more week
16 after the 23rd.

17 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay.

18 MR. DALTON: And you'll recall
19 that if we don't adopt a budget, which has
20 been done in the past, then we would revert to
21 the prior year's budget.

22 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. And I
23 just want the public to know and everybody to
24 know, I'm asking for this information because
25 it's not set in stone that you will have two

1 votes to approve the budget. And again, I
2 want to see what's been spent in 2017 before I
3 say yes to a 2018 budget. So let's get
4 prepared. Possibly it may or may not, I don't
5 know. It depends on the information that we
6 get as Board members and as we come back
7 before the public and we take a vote that next
8 time. So hearing that --

9 MR. LAY: Mr. Chairman.

10 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes,
11 Mr. Lay.

12 MR. LAY: I would like to make an
13 addition to the items you asked for.

14 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay.

15 MR. LAY: I'd like to see all
16 moneys paid to attorneys this year, all moneys
17 paid, their names, and a summary of what they
18 have done to earn those funds. I know
19 approximately four. So anyone that carries
20 the title of attorney that has been paid by
21 this township, I'd like to see their -- the
22 summation of the invoices, as an example, with
23 the exception of one person. I do not need to
24 see Mr. Rinzer's. That's not necessary, but
25 any others, because that's why I asked certain

1 questions. He's not exempt from my inquiries.
2 It's just not necessary.

3 But I would like to see
4 specifically money paid to Attorney Walker
5 and/or his firm, the attorney who handled the
6 case before the Election Board, Attorney
7 Boswell, and Attorney Angela Jones, if she was
8 paid some, but any and all moneys paid to
9 those individuals; like I say, with the
10 exception of Attorney Williams. Now maybe the
11 rest of the Board wants to see his too. I
12 don't.

13 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Well to
14 answer that, I want to see all professional
15 services, so that would include him and any
16 other attorneys.

17 MR. LAY: Right.

18 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: The last
19 thing, the specific request I'm asking is
20 regarding the building on East 5th Avenue,
21 21st through 39th. I want Board members to
22 have -- because that's the building that was
23 supposed to be torn down, if there were any
24 moneys paid towards that demolition, I want
25 Board members to get the name of the company

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1 and how much, if any, has been paid to
2 demolition that building provided to us before
3 that October 23rd meeting.

4 Any more questions by Board
5 members?

6 MR. LAY: I have none.

7 MS. REEDUS: No.

8 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Ms. Reedus.

9 MS. REEDUS: That building that we
10 turned over to the City Trustee?

11 MS. ROBINSON: And we just sent
12 you all the paperwork a month, or so ago. You
13 want it again, sir?

14 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Well, I
15 don't want to really get into it in the
16 meeting, but there's an issue about moneys
17 being paid out and authority of this Board
18 regarding MOU that some of us kind of
19 disagreed with, and we want to know -- because
20 we know for a fact with demolition and
21 contracts, there's a certain amount that this
22 Board has to approve. So I know what the
23 Trustee and the City of Gary did with you
24 all's MOU that we were not a part of.

25 So I want to see if there were any

1 moneys that had been spent and the amount and
2 who was the demolition service, name of the
3 company, the owner, and I want to see this and
4 I want the other Board members to see it. If
5 you don't want to see it, you can throw it
6 away, but I want to know who got these
7 services. I know there's a peer process with
8 redevelopment. Again, that was with the
9 Trustee and redevelopment and the mayor. This
10 Board was not asked to be a part of that
11 partnership.

12 And when it comes to a certain
13 amount of dollars, I know the Board is to
14 approve those moneys, especially when it comes
15 to demolition. And I don't want to get into a
16 debate about it, but that's what I'm asking to
17 see and for other Board members to see.

18 Anything else?

19 (No immediate response.)

20 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: The Chair
21 would like to entertain a motion for
22 adjournment.

23 MR. LAY: So moved.

24 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All in favor
25 signify by saying aye.

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(Board members saying "aye" in unison.)

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: No nays. The ayes have it. The meeting is adjourned.

(Proceedings concluded at about 6:25 p.m.)

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

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

7 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

8
9 I, Beth A. Barnette, CSR and Notary
10 Public, do hereby certify that I reported in machine
11 shorthand the foregoing proceedings had in the
12 above-entitled matter, at the time and place herein
13 before set forth; and I do further certify that the
14 foregoing transcript, consisting of twenty-five (25)
15 typewritten pages, is a true and correct
16 transcript of my said stenographic notes, to the
17 best of my ability.

18 Signed this 21st day of September,
19 2017.

20
21
22 *Beth Barnette*

23 _____
24 BETH A. BARNETTE, CSR
25 Notary Public
My Commission Expires: 6/13/22

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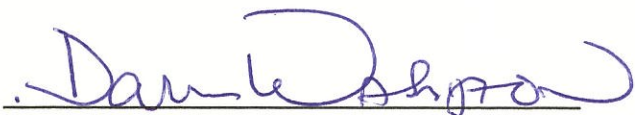
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2017 (10) 3:4,16,18;4:9;5:3; 10:3;18:20;19:15,17; 21:2				
2017-03 (3) 4:13;7:2,4				
2017-04 (3) 9:15;12:3,6				
2018 (10) 4:14;7:4;9:15;12:3, 7,17;19:11,16;20:1; 21:3				
21st (1) 22:21				
23rd (5) 8:24;9:3;20:5,16; 23:3				
3				
3 (3) 4:13,23;9:14				
31st (2) 18:23;19:21				

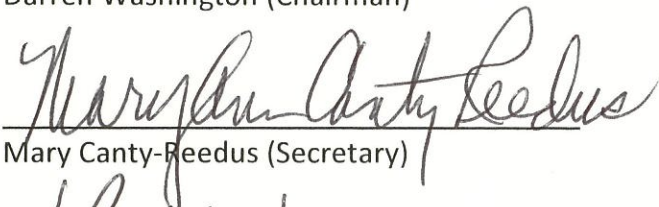
MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Darren Washington moved to adjourn, Clorius Lay seconded.

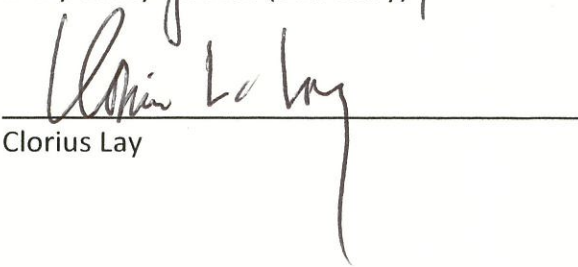
MEETING ADJOURNED AT
6:25 p.m.



Darren Washington (Chairman)



Mary Canty-Reedus (Secretary)



Clorius Lay

