

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

January 7, 2020
REGULAR MEETING

BOSS REPORTERS
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THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

GARY, INDIANA

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had at the meeting
before the Calumet Township Board, reported by
Kristen K. Stokes, CSR, Notary Public in and for the
County of Lake, State of Indiana, taken at 610
Connecticut Street, Gary, Indiana, on January 7,
2020, scheduled to begin at 5:15 p.m. in the
evening.

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APPEARANCES:

Darren Washington, Board Chairman

Jacqueline Holmes, Board Secretary

James Piggee, Board Member

Kimberly Robinson, Township Trustee

Sherita Smith, Chief Deputy

Romeka Bonds, Executive Secretary

Deidre Monroe, Board Attorney

Rinzer Williams, III, Township Attorney

Steve Dalton, Financial Advisor

Gladys Miller, Finance Manager

and

Members of the Public

* * * * *

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1 (TRUSTEE BOARD MEETING COMMENCED AT 5:18 PM.)

2 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Good evening,
3 ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the
4 Calumet Township board meeting. I call the
5 meeting to order.

6 Can we stand for the pledge of
7 allegiance.

8 (EVERYONE STOOD FOR PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.)

9 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: I call this
10 meeting to order. The Chairman would like
11 to make a motion to amend tonight's agenda.
12 Is there a second?

13 MS. HOLMES: I second.

14 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All in favor
15 signify by saying aye.

16 THE BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

17 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All opposed nay?

18 (NO RESPONSE.)

19 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: The ayes have it.
20 I would like to add to the agenda as Item
21 No. 5, after the Resolution 2020, the
22 contract for the board attorney and the
23 contract for Boss Reporters. I make a
24 motion to amend the agenda to add those two
25 items. Is there a second?

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MR. PIGGEE: Second.

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All in favor
signify by saying aye.

THE BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Nays?

(NO RESPONSE.)

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: The ayes have it.
Motion carries.

Also, let's go with the reorganization
of the Township Board. The Chair would like
to make a motion to keep the same officers
by acclimation, Darren Washington as Board
President 2020 and Jackie Holmes as Board
Secretary 2020. Is there a second?

MR. PIGGEE: Yes, second.

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All in favor
signify by saying aye.

THE BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Those opposed,
nay.

(NO RESPONSE.)

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: The ayes have it.
The motion carries.

Approval of the minutes of October 21st,
2019. Can we have a motion to approve those

1 minutes?

2 MR. PIGGEE: So moved.

3 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All right. There
4 needs to be -- Ms. Holmes caught an error in
5 the last board meeting minutes. She showed
6 me on Page 4, it's Chairman Lay. Although
7 we love him, he's gone. So we need to
8 change those to the Chairman Washington
9 instead of Mr. Lay.

10 Ms. Holmes, do you have anything else?

11 MS. HOLMES: No.

12 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: The Chair would
13 like to make a motion for the approval of
14 tonight's -- I mean of the minutes with the
15 changes that were just provided.

16 MR. PIGGEE: So moved.

17 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All in favor
18 signify by saying aye.

19 THE BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

20 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Those opposed,
21 nay?

22 (NO RESPONSE.)

23 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: The ayes have it.

24 The motion carries.

25 The Item No. 4, Resolution 2020-01,

1 close fund and transfer balance.

2 Madam Trustee, happy new year.

3 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Thank you. We will
4 have Mr. Dalton.

5 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Happy new year,
6 Mr. Dalton.

7 MR. DALTON: Happy new year, everyone.

8 The resolution in front of you is
9 2020-01, and it is a request by the
10 administration for the authority to close
11 the fund called the Community Services Fund.
12 It is one of our five property tax funds.
13 And the reason behind that is that the
14 services that are being provided by that
15 fund, whenever it was created a long time
16 ago, are really part of the Civil Township.
17 And in closing that fund we lose no dollars.
18 We will still get those dollars in the Civil
19 Township Fund. It was creating more
20 accounting than it was worth to maintain a
21 totally separate fund.

22 The remaining balance, if you want to
23 know the amount, would be \$37,885.93. That
24 would be, by this resolution, transferred
25 back to the Civil Fund.

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1 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Thank you,
2 Mr. Dalton.

3 Any questions by any board members?

4 MS. HOLMES: No.

5 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Mr. Piggee?

6 MR. PIGGEE: Not at this point,
7 Mr. Chair.

8 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Are you sure?

9 MR. PIGGEE: Yeah, Mr. Dalton?

10 MR. DALTON: Yes, sir.

11 MR. PIGGEE: The funds that you are
12 talking about, is that the funds that we
13 have loaned out and coming back to us or
14 what? Could you explain that.

15 MR. DALTON: Yes. So there are -- it's
16 a possibility of mixing up the terms a bit.
17 When I speak of a fund, I'm talking about a
18 specific accounting profit and loss. The
19 General Civil Fund is a fund. The Township
20 Assistance Administration Fund is a fund by
21 itself.

22 MR. PIGGEE: Okay.

23 MR. DALTON: The Community Services Fund
24 sits by itself, and it has a source of
25 revenues, which are mostly property taxes

1 and specific expenses that were spent over
2 the last dozen or more years when that fund
3 was created. It just doesn't have its own
4 use anymore. It's really a part of the
5 Civil Fund. So the dollars that are sitting
6 in that fund we're asking to be put in the
7 Civil Fund, and we'll do the work within the
8 Civil Fund that we're currently doing, not
9 changing any part of what we're doing.

10 MR. PIGGEE: Okay. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Any more
12 questions?

13 MR. PIGGEE: No.

14 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: The Chair would
15 like -- the Chair is making a motion to
16 approve Resolution 2020-01, close fund and
17 transfer balance. Is there a second?

18 MS. HOLMES: I second.

19 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Any other
20 questions? Hearing no questions, may we
21 have a roll call, Ms. Bonds.

22 MS. BONDS: Mr. Piggee?

23 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

24 MS. BONDS: Ms. Holmes?

25 MS. HOLMES: Yes.

1 MS. BONDS: Mr. Washington?

2 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

3 With three yes, zero nays, the motion
4 carries.

5 Item No. 5, contract for the board
6 attorney, Board Attorney Deidre Monroe.

7 Attorney Monroe, is there anything you
8 want to say before we vote or any questions
9 by board members?

10 MS. MONROE: No. The contract is pretty
11 much like it was last year. It would be a
12 monthly of 600, not to exceed 7,200. And if
13 you have some additional work, it would be
14 up to \$5,000. Anything over that would have
15 to be approved by the board.

16 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. Any
17 questions by board members?

18 MR. PIGGEE: No.

19 MS. HOLMES: No.

20 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: The Chair would
21 like to entertain a motion for approval of
22 the contract for the board attorney. May we
23 have a -- is there a second?

24 MR. PIGGEE: Second.

25 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Hearing a second,

1 may we have roll call, Ms. Bonds.

2 MS. BONDS: Mr. Piggee?

3 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

4 MS. BONDS: Ms. Holmes?

5 MS. HOLMES: Yes.

6 MS. BONDS: Mr. Washington?

7 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

8 With three yes, zero nays, the motion
9 carries.

10 Next item, board approval for Boss
11 Reporter Court Reporters.

12 Attorney Monroe?

13 MS. MONROE: Yes. Their contract for
14 Boss Reporting is the same as it was last
15 year, not to exceed \$10,000.

16 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Any questions by
17 board members?

18 MR. PIGGEE: No.

19 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Hearing none, the
20 Chair would like to make a motion to approve
21 the contract of 2020 for Boss Reporters
22 Court Reporters. Is there a second?

23 MS. HOLMES: I second.

24 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: May we have a roll
25 call, Ms. Bonds.

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MS. BONDS: Mr. Piggee?

MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

MS. BONDS: Ms. Holmes?

MS. HOLMES: Yes.

MS. BONDS: Mr. Washington?

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

With three yes, zero nays, the motion carries.

Item No. 5, public comments. Happy new year to everyone.

THE AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Happy new year.

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Is there anybody in the audience this evening that would like to make public comments at the first meeting of the year?

(NO RESPONSE.)

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. Hearing none.

Madam Trustee, happy new year.

TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Happy new year to you all. Very blessed and happy to be starting my sixth year as your Calumet Township Trustee, so I thank you all. I thank my staff for a wonderful 2019 and hopefully going into 2020 even greater.

1 We ended the year, as we usually do,
2 with our Thanksgiving -- annual Thanksgiving
3 giveaway. We had over 20 turkeys that were
4 donated by our vendor, American Brake &
5 Muffler. Methodist Hospital gave us some
6 items as well. So we were able to give away
7 about -- 30 baskets, Ms. Hunter?

8 MS. HUNTER: 35.

9 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: 35. So we were
10 thankful for that. We also participated in
11 the annual Oak Street Health Center's
12 community luncheon that they have for
13 seniors over at the multi-purpose center.
14 We were able to give away over 100 coats to
15 families here, those that turned in names to
16 their caseworkers. Mostly we love to make
17 sure that the children are warm in coats,
18 hats and gloves, underwear, those things.
19 Our vendor for uniforms and those types of
20 things is This is It in Gary.

21 We also were able to participate with
22 our Board Member Jackie Holmes as she hooked
23 up a lot of people with baskets as well
24 through the mill -- or I should say hook up.
25 Sorry.

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1 And also, through Methodist Hospital, we
2 were able to give at least 25 coats to the
3 Coat of Confidence Program that was
4 spearheaded by Ms. Jordan Wilson and friends
5 at the YWCA. And I heard that went really
6 well.

7 More recently we had to work very
8 closely with the Red Cross as we had 80 to
9 90 displaced residents out at Park West
10 Apartments. I'd like to publically thank
11 Ms. Brenda Hunter, Ms. Savarius Scott,
12 Ms. Louise Niece, as we were on a
13 round-the-clock holiday watch in helping
14 these people.

15 I know I was in contact with Board
16 President and Board Secretary. And I should
17 have texted you as well, Coach Piggee, but I
18 knew you were under the weather a little
19 bit, so I didn't want to worry you. But you
20 did call, and I did let you know that we
21 were working on that. So we got our last
22 text -- or I got the last text from the Red
23 Cross probably on Monday saying everybody
24 had been transitioned well into either
25 another apartment or some other place of

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1 safety and comfort.

2 So I think that's it. Again, I look
3 forward to the 2020 year. Happy new year to
4 all of you and thank you. God bless us all.

5 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Thank you.

6 MR. PIGGEE: Mr. Chair?

7 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: It's board
8 comments now, so you have the floor.

9 MR. PIGGEE: Okay. Ms. Robinson?

10 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes.

11 MR. PIGGEE: I really appreciate the
12 information I asked for at the last meeting,
13 and I did receive it. And I think I let you
14 know that I did receive that information on
15 salaries and things of that nature.

16 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes.

17 MR. PIGGEE: It was very interesting,
18 and I was glad to get that. And last week I
19 did mention to you about the fire out at
20 Griffith.

21 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Uh-huh.

22 MR. PIGGEE: And you told me you was
23 aware of it and you had been over there that
24 morning, and you told me some of the people
25 were put in our facilities on 41st.

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1 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Right.

2 MR. PIGGEE: And I was very happy to
3 know that you was on top of it because it
4 was on all the news, and they had it on
5 television about the fire and stuff of that
6 nature. So I was really concerned.

7 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: And Griffith is --
8 I'm sorry to interrupt you, but I just want
9 to say, Griffith still is a part of us.

10 MR. PIGGEE: Yes, they are.

11 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I know that they were
12 trying very hard to get out by the end of
13 the year. There was a comment made by
14 Councilman Ryfa that he just did not want to
15 give us any money. They actually have until
16 November of 2020 to get a final decision on
17 that so -- but you know --

18 MR. PIGGEE: I was very concerned about
19 that because I know they wanted to move away
20 from us.

21 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Uh-huh.

22 MR. PIGGEE: And now --

23 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: They still do. They
24 still do.

25 MR. PIGGEE: They still want to after

1 all that? Okay. Well, I appreciate that,
2 and I appreciate you working along with the
3 board.

4 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Mr. President, I'm
5 sorry. I have one more comment.

6 Just to let you guys know, in
7 transitioning also with the new
8 administration as far as the city goes, we
9 still -- and I did relay this to Mayor
10 Prince -- we still have the Gary Fire
11 Department house and our multi-purpose
12 center, and we also have down here the IAD
13 Department because they had to be removed
14 from whatever building they were in. So I
15 told them that we remained community
16 partners as best we can in helping as we all
17 serve the same constituents.

18 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Mr. Piggee, I want
19 to ask you a question.

20 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

21 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Have you upgraded
22 your phone plan because when I text you, it
23 bounces back all the time.

24 MR. PIGGEE: I don't know what's wrong
25 with this thing. I'm going to have to go to

1 a good place.

2 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: We had a
3 conversation, me and Ms. Holmes did, because
4 I text-messaged you both. Now you've got
5 those glasses on it's hard to read the text.
6 She probably should call you, but I wanted
7 to let you know publically that I've sent
8 you text messages, and they always bounce
9 back.

10 MR. PIGGEE: Well, Mr. Washington, I'll
11 check into it.

12 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: You'll check into
13 it?

14 MR. PIGGEE: Yes, I will.

15 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay.

16 MR. PIGGEE: Thank you for making me
17 aware.

18 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes, sir.

19 MR. PIGGEE: Okay.

20 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Ms. Holmes?

21 MS. HOLMES: I just want to thank the
22 Calumet Township Board -- Calumet Township
23 employees for all the referrals. We ended
24 up serving 1,100 people with baskets, so
25 thank you very much.

1 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Happy new year to
3 everyone. Congratulations to Ms. Holmes,
4 who is a very active and great board member,
5 that I'm looking forward to after this year
6 becoming the next president of the Township
7 Board because she's learning and doing a
8 great job. Kudos to the Township staff and
9 our Trustee for the great job.

10 And I'd just ask this, Madam Trustee,
11 and I know you would do this -- and that's
12 why I wanted Mr. Piggee to have his text
13 messages and emails because I know you would
14 keep us abreast on what's going on in the
15 legislative session because they already
16 started this week.

17 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yeah, I got some
18 calls today, which obviously people are
19 confusing us with the Calumet Township
20 Assessor's office because they had their one
21 bill that they're trying to get rid of all
22 the local assessors.

23 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Right.

24 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: And it's not us, but
25 thank you for the heads up, so I did put

1 them in touch with Miss Jackie Collins.

2 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: And if our
3 schedules do permit, when the state
4 organization for Township needs us to come
5 down and testify, if our schedules permit,
6 we need to go down and be able to testify
7 and support that group, but it depends on
8 the schedule. You may have to speak for us
9 because we still work for a living.

10 MR. PIGGEE: Don't tell everybody,
11 Mr. Washington.

12 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Since you're
13 retired with a lot of money.

14 MR. PIGGEE: Yeah, okay.

15 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: We -- I'll be
16 looking forward to seeing what the
17 legislature does with Griffith, especially
18 if they're going to extend that deadline
19 year after year after year, when that's
20 going to stop. But other than that, that's
21 my comments. Have a happy new year.
22 Continue the great work that the staff and
23 the Trustee is doing. The Chair would like
24 to entertain a motion -- not entertain, but
25 the Chair is making a motion for

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adjournment.

MR. PIGGEE: So moved.

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All in favor
signify by saying aye.

THE BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Those opposed,
nay.

(NO RESPONSE.)

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: The ayes have it.

The motion carries.

(TCWNSHIP BOARD MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 5:33 PM.)

* * * * *

1 (BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING COMMENCED AT 5:33 PM.)

2 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All right. Now,
3 the Chair would like to call to order the
4 meeting for the local Board of Finance of
5 2020 based on Indiana Code 513-7-6.

6 First item is election of the president
7 and secretary of the local Board of Finance
8 for 2020.

9 The Chair would like to make a motion by
10 acclimation to continue to allow me as
11 president, Darren Washington, and Ms. Jackie
12 Holmes as secretary. Is there a second?

13 MR. PIGGEE: Second.

14 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All in favor
15 signify by saying aye.

16 THE BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

17 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Those opposed?

18 (NO RESPONSE.)

19 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: The ayes have it.

20 Item No. 2, the review of 2019
21 investment report.

22 Madam Trustee and Mr. Dalton.

23 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yeah, I would defer
24 to Mr. Dalton for that.

25 MR. DALTON: So just to remind the newly

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1 formed board, you have only one
2 responsibility each year, and it is to have
3 this meeting, this specific local Board of
4 Finance meeting. And the statute requires
5 that the administration prepare for you an
6 investment report which shows you the
7 investment earnings of the Township.

8 You'll see that investment report on
9 Page 2 of the document that you have. It's
10 got a box on the front. Page 2 -- sorry the
11 print is so small. I didn't realize it was
12 that small when I printed it. If you go to
13 the very last column, you'll see the 2019
14 investment returns and the cash that's on
15 hand, which is quite a bit larger in 2019.
16 Congratulations to the administration.
17 Almost \$72,000 was earned in funds that were
18 invested in depository accounts of the
19 Township. They are broken down here by the
20 individual fund name.

21 You'll notice that the Township
22 Assistance Fund is still listed because way
23 back when we had a Township Assistance
24 Fund -- we no longer do when the State
25 forced us to separate them into an Admin

1 Fund and a Benefits Fund, but so that you
2 could compare 2010 to 2019, we kept that
3 fund on the list. So nearly \$72,000 was
4 earned, which is almost double what we
5 earned last year, which is terrific,
6 especially because interest rates are still
7 quite so low.

8 There are a couple additional charts.
9 They are not required by statute. You're
10 welcome to ask questions about them. I only
11 included them because I thought they might
12 help you have a better feel for the way our
13 property taxes roll into Calumet Township.
14 I will pause there. There's no requirement
15 in the statute that you take any action
16 besides to accept this report.

17 MR. PIGGEE: Mr. Chair?

18 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Mr. Piggee.

19 MR. PIGGEE: The \$72,000 earned, now,
20 can you explain just a little bit where that
21 \$72,000 was earned from.

22 MR. DALTON: Interest-bearing accounts
23 with the bank. So those dollars are sitting
24 in what bank, Gladys?

25 MS. MILLER: Centier.

1 MR. DALTON: Centier Bank. And they are
2 sitting in accounts that bear interest. And
3 we have enough dollars that the interest
4 accumulated to \$72,000 during the year of
5 2019. Like a savings account that you would
6 have that bears interest, the Township has
7 similar accounts.

8 MR. PIGGEE: Okay. Mr. Chair.

9 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yeah. Ms. Holmes,
10 any questions?

11 MS. HOLMES: No questions.

12 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All right. Item
13 No. 3, the Chair would like to make a motion
14 to approve Resolution 2020-02, the
15 investment policy. Is there a second?

16 MS. HOLMES: I second.

17 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All in favor
18 signify by saying aye -- not all in favor.
19 Roll call, Ms. Bonds.

20 MS. BONDS: Mr. Piggee?

21 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

22 MS. BONDS: Ms. Holmes?

23 MS. HOLMES: Yes.

24 MS. BONDS: Mr. Washington?

25 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

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1 With three yes, zero nays, the motion
2 carries.

3 Thank you, Mr. Dalton.

4 Public comments by anyone in the public
5 today?

6 (NO RESPONSE.)

7 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Hearing none.

8 Madam Trustee, do you have any comments?

9 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I believe we will
10 talk about that in February, Mr. Dalton?

11 MR. DALTON: The capital investment
12 plan?

13 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes.

14 MR. DALTON: Yes, we will.

15 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Okay. That's all.

16 MR. DALTON: You bringing up February is
17 a good reminder. We should probably set the
18 date.

19 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Okay.

20 MR. PIGGEE: Mr. Dalton, is that going
21 to be a board meeting or just a private
22 meeting?

23 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: It will be a board
24 meeting.

25 MR. PIGGEE: Okay. I want to know

1 because I want to be there.

2 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: No private meeting
3 between us two.

4 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Before we close,
5 Madam Trustee, Mr. Dalton, do you have a
6 date in mind right now? We can go ahead and
7 approve it.

8 MR. DALTON: I proposed a date, but the
9 attorney reminded me that that was a
10 potential holiday. February 17th.

11 MR. WILLIAMS: That wouldn't bar us from
12 coming in.

13 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I think we did last
14 time, came in. It was early, like at noon,
15 12:00 noon. But what's your schedule,
16 Ms. Holmes, on February 17th?

17 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: We're going to do
18 evening.

19 MS. HOLMES: I'm available.

20 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: You are?

21 MS. HOLMES: What time? 4:00?

22 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: No. We're going
23 to do 5:00 o'clock.

24 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Okay.

25 MR. PIGGEE: February 17th?

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1 MR. DALTON: Is that okay with
2 everybody?

3 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

4 MR. PIGGEE: 5:00 o'clock, you said,
5 Mr. President?

6 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

7 MR. DALTON: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. Chair would
9 like to make a motion that our next board
10 meeting for the Calumet Township Board will
11 be at 5:15 p.m., February 17, 2020. Is
12 there a second?

13 MR. PIGGEE: Second.

14 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All in favor
15 signify by saying aye.

16 THE BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

17 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: It carries. Thank
18 you.

19 Board comments? Mr. Piggee?

20 MR. PIGGEE: Mr. Chair, I'm such -- you
21 know, I like when Mr. Dalton and
22 Ms. Robinson give their reports because I
23 want to know where the money is going and
24 how much money is there. So other than
25 that, no, Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Thank you.

2 Ms. Holmes?

3 MS. HOLMES: No questions.

4 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: I have no
5 comments.

6 The Chair would like to entertain a
7 motion for adjournment.

8 MR. PIGGEE: So moved.

9 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All in favor
10 signify by saying aye.

11 THE BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

12 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Have a blessed
13 evening, everyone. Motion carries.

14 THE BOARD MEMBERS: Thank you.

15 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Thank you.

16

17 (BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 5:40 PM.)

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

3 THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
 4 GARY, INDIANA

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 Signed this 13th day of January, 2020.

19
 20
 21 

22 KRISTEN K. STOKES, CSR
 23 CSR# 084-003723

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

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 January 7, 2020, were approved by
9 the Board of Trustees on the 17th day of
10 February, 2020.

11
12 
13 _____
14 Darren Washington, Board Chairman

15 
16 _____
17 Jacqueline Holmes, Board Secretary

18 
19 _____
20 James Piggee, Board Member
21
22
23
24
25

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

*February 17, 2020
REGULAR MEETING*

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

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THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

GARY, INDIANA

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had at the meeting
before the Calumet Township Board, reported by
Kristen K. Stokes, CSR, Notary Public in and for the
County of Lake, State of Indiana, taken at 610
Connecticut Street, Gary, Indiana, on February 17,
2020, scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. in the
evening.

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APPEARANCES:

Darren Washington, Board Chairman

Jacqueline Holmes, Board Secretary

James Piggee, Board Member

Kimberly Robinson, Township Trustee

Sherita Smith, Chief Deputy

Romeka Bonds, Executive Secretary

Deidre Monroe, Board Attorney

Rinzer Williams, III, Township Attorney

Steve Dalton, Financial Advisor

Gladys Miller, Finance Manager

and

Members of the Public

* * * * *

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1 (BOARD MEETING COMMENCED AT 6:08 PM.)

2 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Good evening,
3 ladies and gentlemen. We would like to open
4 up the meeting for the Calumet Township
5 Board. May we stand for the Pledge of
6 Allegiance.

7 (PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE WAS RECITED.)

8 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Thank you, ladies
9 and gentlemen.

10 May we have a roll call, Ms. Bonds.

11 MS. BONDS: Ms. Holmes?

12 MS. HOLMES: Yes.

13 MS. BONDS: Mr. Washington?

14 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes, here.

15 MS. BONDS: Mr. Piggee?

16 MR. PIGGEE: Here.

17 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: With three here,
18 we have enough for a quorum.

19 Before we get to the approval of the
20 minutes of the meeting of January 7th, I
21 wanted it recorded that we did have an
22 executive session today, starting at about
23 5:32, and we ended at about 6:08, and those
24 items that were discussed were executive
25 session items.

1 First issue, the approval of the minutes
2 of January 7th. The Chair is making a
3 motion for approval of the minutes convening
4 on January 7th. Is there a second?

5 MR. PIGGEE: So moved.

6 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. Any
7 discussion?

8 Mr. Piggee, any questions?

9 MR. PIGGEE: No questions.

10 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Do you have any
11 questions?

12 MS. HOLMES: No.

13 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Roll call.

14 MS. BONDS: Mr. Piggee?

15 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

16 MS. BONDS: Ms. Holmes?

17 MS. HOLMES: Yes.

18 MS. BONDS: Mr. Washington?

19 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

20 With three yeas, zero nays, the motion
21 carries.

22 Item No. 2, Resolution 2020-3, Rainy Day
23 Loan for 2020.

24 Mr. Dalton?

25 MR. DALTON: Board members, we annually --

1 in the February meeting asked that you enact
2 a resolution to allow us to borrow money.
3 Instead of borrowing money from a bank where
4 we have to pay interest, we borrow from
5 ourselves. In previous years we borrowed
6 for upwards of three funds, the Civil
7 General Fund and the Recreation Fund, the
8 Community Service Fund and either one of the
9 Township Assistance Funds.

10 Over the last few years we've built up
11 our reserves. Those funds are adequately
12 reserved so that they can make it to the tax
13 draws in June and December. The only fund
14 that is still a little bit tight -- when I
15 say tight, it's balanced, but it needs cash
16 to get us to June and then cash to get us to
17 December. So we borrow from ourselves.
18 We've asked for \$700,000 to be loaned from
19 the Rainy Day Fund to the Civil General
20 Fund. It will be paid back.

21 Typically, you'll recall that we come to
22 you at the end of the year and we ask that
23 you give us a couple extra months to pay it
24 back so we can clean up the end of the year.
25 So what will happen is we will actually pay

1 back last year's loans next -- this coming
2 week, and then we'll take out the new loan,
3 so it's not like we're digging a deeper and
4 deeper hole. We do pay it back every year.
5 We're just borrowing a lot less each year
6 with an eventual goal of borrowing nothing
7 in the future, but right now we need to
8 borrow, if you would approve this, \$700,000
9 from the Rainy Day Fund and put it in the
10 Civil General Fund.

11 MR. PIGGEE: I've got a question for
12 you.

13 MR. DALTON: Yes, sir.

14 MR. PIGGEE: In 2019 how much money was
15 borrowed from the Rainy Day Fund?

16 MR. DALTON: I don't remember, sir. 750
17 plus 70, so \$820,000 was borrowed and put in
18 two funds.

19 MR. PIGGEE: So that will be paid back
20 next week?

21 MR. DALTON: Yes.

22 MR. PIGGEE: All of it?

23 MR. DALTON: Yes, every dollar.

24 MR. PIGGEE: Okay.

25 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Any questions,

1 Ms. Holmes?

2 MS. HOLMES: No thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: The Chair would
4 make the motion for the approval of 2020-3.
5 Is there a second?

6 MR. PIGGEE: Second.

7 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Hearing a second,
8 may we have a roll call, Ms. Bonds.

9 MS. BONDS: Mr. Piggee?

10 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

11 MS. BONDS: Ms. Holmes?

12 MS. HOLMES: Yes.

13 MS. BONDS: Mr. Washington?

14 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

15 With three yeses, zero nos, the
16 resolution passes.

17 Item No. 3, Resolution 2020-4.

18 MR. DALTON: Madam Trustee, shall I go
19 ahead on the annual report?

20 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes, please.

21 MR. DALTON: Okay.

22 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Thank you.

23 MR. DALTON: I hope you had a chance to
24 look at the annual report as presented. The
25 resolution is somewhat simple. It basically

1 says that you've reviewed it, and the only
2 action you would take if you had a
3 disagreement would be is you would call out
4 the page you disagreed with, and we would
5 list it on the resolution that you're
6 disagreeing with it.

7 It is the Trustee's annual report that
8 we load into the Indiana Gateway system, and
9 then the State Board of Accounts will use
10 that set of numbers when they come back to
11 audit the Township in a year or two or
12 three, whenever they get around to auditing
13 us again.

14 If you recall, we were -- we've been
15 audited before. We've been getting
16 increasingly glowing returns on our audits.
17 This last one was a terrific review with all
18 the items that had been carried over from
19 the previous administration cleaned up. We
20 were complimented quite often through the
21 audit. I think some of you even sat through
22 the exit conference and heard some of those
23 compliments.

24 So the annual report is kind of the
25 basis for audits. It's the Trustee's

1 numbers that are given to the State Board of
2 Accounts to report on what took place in
3 2019.

4 Let me point out a couple of things.
5 I'm not going to read every page because
6 it's 40-pages long, but if you go to Page 2
7 of the annual report, it says, "Cash and
8 Investments Combined Statement." This is a
9 list of each of the funds in Calumet
10 Township: The Rainy Day, the Civil
11 Township. You can see the list of funds.
12 The beginning balance is the first column.
13 The ending balance in that fund at the end
14 of the year is the last column. And between
15 are the dollars that came in and the dollars
16 that went out. You'll notice that, overall,
17 that the dollars that have been coming into
18 the funds are beginning to be quite a bit
19 more balanced than they used to be. So 5,
20 6, 7 years ago we were struggling. We were
21 spending more than we were bringing in. And
22 we're much more balanced than we have been
23 in my experience here and perhaps before all
24 of our experiences here at Calumet Township.
25 That was our first goal, to get structurally

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1 balanced.

2 Second goal was to build up our reserves
3 so we didn't have to borrow money, even from
4 ourselves.

5 And the third goal is to continue to
6 work on our internal controls, which you
7 have noticed we've been doing if you sat
8 through that exit conference so that every
9 time the State Board comes, they give us a
10 glowing report on our use of money on behalf
11 of taxpayers.

12 This page that shows you the fund
13 balances has behind it about 20 more pages
14 of detail, detail in the receipts, detail in
15 the disbursements, detail on the cash
16 balances, detail on the amount of money that
17 has been given to those clients of the
18 Township who need Township assistance and
19 details on the vendors that were paid by the
20 Township.

21 So if you have specific questions, it
22 will be terrific not to sit here and read
23 all 20 pages together, but I'd be happy to
24 attempt to answer them if you had something
25 that you circled when you were going through

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1 the annual report. Otherwise, I know the
2 Trustee would like for you to approve the
3 resolution.

4 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Mr. Piggee, do you
5 have any questions?

6 MR. PIGGEE: Not right now, no.

7 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. Do you?

8 MS. HOLMES: No questions.

9 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: I have no
10 questions.

11 The chair is making a motion to approve
12 Resolution 2020-4. Is there a second?

13 MS. HOLMES: I second it.

14 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Any conversation?
15 You got a question you thought about?

16 MR. PIGGEE: Uh-uh.

17 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Mr. Chair, I would
18 like to just add to it that we have to do
19 this annually, and the reason why we're able
20 to just kick it out and keep it in such good
21 order is because of monthly reconciliation
22 and the things that Miss Miller and the
23 Finance Department does. And so most of it
24 is probably some of the things you've
25 already seen, and it just goes through. So

1 if you have any questions about any of the
2 vendors or any of the money that you see as
3 disbursed, I'd be happy to answer them.

4 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Roll call,
5 Ms. Bonds.

6 MS. BONDS: Mr. Piggee?

7 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

8 MS. BONDS: Ms. Holmes?

9 MS. HOLMES: Yes.

10 MS. BONDS: Mr. Washington?

11 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

12 With three yeses and no nays, the
13 resolution carries.

14 Let us show for the record that Attorney
15 Rinzer Williams is present at this time.

16 Item No. 4, the Resolution 2020-5,
17 adoption of the 2021-2023, Capital
18 Improvement Plan.

19 MR. DALTON: You will notice that this
20 is a bit of a new item. We have not done
21 this in previous years for you new Township
22 board members. In 2019 the legislature
23 determined the House Enrolled Act 1177, that
24 they wanted to request that all townships go
25 through the process of preparing a Capital

1 Improvement Plan. And I don't know what
2 their reasoning was. It's not mine to speak
3 to their policies and why they reasoned it,
4 but it had a couple components.

5 One of those components was if you were
6 sitting on a whole lot of cash, the plan not
7 only needed to be adopted, but it needed to
8 be submitted to the DLGF and needed to be
9 submitted to the county council. Perhaps
10 their reasoning was that if there was more
11 eyes on townships that had a lot of cash,
12 the townships would use the dollars for
13 capital improvements. I don't know. I
14 can't speak to their intentions.

15 So we ran through the model, and you can
16 see -- I wish it was bigger print, but it
17 came from the DLGF. I didn't create it. So
18 we ran through the model. And according to
19 the way we ran the model, we do not believe
20 we're required to submit a plan, but it was
21 my recommendation, though, and the Trustee
22 and I believe that -- and Attorney Williams
23 agreed -- that we go ahead and do one
24 anyway. One, there's nothing wrong with
25 doing a Capital Improvement Plan. And

1 number two, just in case Calumet Township
2 goes through one of those situations where
3 they change a rule just to benefit or work
4 against us.

5 We've had this happen before where a
6 rule got changed, a measurement got changed,
7 the formula got changed on the fly as the
8 legislature -- at the dark hour of 12:30,
9 right before the legislature closed, and it
10 was targeted at us, which is odd to me.
11 Maybe I'm a little bit ouchy about Griffith
12 still, but I feel like it would probably
13 behoove us to pass a Capital Improvement
14 Plan, to go ahead and submit that plan to
15 the DLGF and go ahead and send a copy to the
16 county council just in case they decide to
17 change the rules on us, because the
18 consequence of not submitting a plan if we
19 had to, they would take away our property
20 taxes next year. I think the consequences
21 being so dire, that we may as well go ahead
22 and submit a plan to assure nothing's wrong
23 with the process.

24 I prepared a plan. The plan is supposed
25 to, Mr. President, ask for a public hearing

1 so, it would be nice to ask for any public
2 input and to be adopted by the board. And
3 it can be amended at any time by the Trustee
4 and the board. So this is not binding our
5 hands. And just in case you care, it also
6 is not approving spending. We still would
7 have to budget and appropriate dollars.
8 This does not say that the Trustee can spend
9 these dollars. It's merely a Capital
10 Improvement Plan.

11 So this resolution says that you approve
12 the plan. If you would first ask for public
13 input, that would be -- even if there is
14 none, at least it's in the minutes, and then
15 we will have gone through the appropriate
16 steps.

17 MR. PIGGEE: And how soon are we going
18 to receive it?

19 MR. DALTON: You have it in your packet.

20 MR. PIGGEE: Oh, we do.

21 MR. DALTON: You have it right now.

22 MR. PIGGEE: Yes, I saw that. I did see
23 that.

24 MR. DALTON: It's a three-year plan.
25 Mostly our capital expenditures out of the

1 small fund have to do with replacing copy
2 machines and things. We don't have a lot of
3 extra dollars laying in small funds. We had
4 a little conversation and said what would we
5 do if we were going to spend money in the
6 Rainy Day Fund, and perhaps one of the
7 projects that we could look at in the future
8 would be the building next door, the post
9 office building, so we put that in the plan.
10 That doesn't mean it's going to happen, but
11 at least it's something that can be thought
12 about.

13 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Any questions by
14 board members?

15 MS. HOLMES: No, sir.

16 MR. PIGGEE: You know what? I would
17 really, really like for him to sit us down
18 in an executive meeting, and we can go
19 through this so we can really understand.

20 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: This is not an
21 executive session item.

22 MR. PIGGEE: It's not?

23 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: We can put it on
24 our next meeting where he can get more in
25 detail.

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1 MR. PIGGEE: During the meeting. Okay.

2 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: So we can get
3 public input and they can be educated, also.

4 MR. PIGGEE: Oh, okay.

5 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Mr. Dalton,
6 question: When are we scheduled to have a
7 hearing on that? When do we set that?

8 MR. DALTON: I think you actually can
9 have it now. It was advertised that way as
10 a public hearing on this item.

11 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay.

12 MR. DALTON: You could also -- our
13 cut-off date is September, so if you're
14 asking if we're up against some kind of
15 deadline, we're not.

16 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: No. The reason
17 why I was saying, I was thinking that at a
18 public hearing you can go into a little more
19 detail for the public and Mr. Piggee.

20 MR. DALTON: You betcha.

21 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: And you can do
22 that specifically.

23 MR. PIGGEE: Mr. Chair, we can do that
24 at the next meeting.

25 MR. DALTON: That is your decision, for

1 sure.

2 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: We'll do that at
3 the next meeting.

4 MR. PIGGEE: Next meeting.

5 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All right. The
6 Chair is making a motion to approve
7 Resolution 2020-5. Is there a second?

8 MR. PIGGEE: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Can we have a roll
10 call, Ms. Bonds?

11 MS. BONDS: Mr. Piggee?

12 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

13 ATTORNEY WILLIAMS: You have to allow
14 for the public.

15 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: No, we said we
16 were going to do it at the next meeting.

17 MR. PIGGEE: Next meeting.

18 ATTORNEY WILLIAMS: But you just moved
19 to approve the plan.

20 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: I thought after it
21 was approved, you still had a little --

22 ATTORNEY WILLIAMS: Once you approve it,
23 it's approved. You can defer it or -- it's
24 probably best to defer it.

25 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. Well, let

1 me take back the motion.

2 I make a motion that we approve
3 Resolution 2020-5 and we defer the public
4 hearing to the next meeting. Or do we have
5 to --

6 ATTORNEY WILLIAMS: You have to do it
7 all now or defer it again.

8 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Well, you know
9 what? We'll go ahead and do the public
10 hearing now, and Mr. Dalton, you can come
11 back at a later time and give detailed
12 information.

13 MR. DALTON: Absolutely.

14 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. Thank you,
15 Attorney Williams.

16 Now is the time -- well, I remove my
17 motion right now. And at this time if there
18 is anyone in the audience that would like to
19 speak for or against or have any questions
20 regarding Resolution 2020-5, you have the
21 floor and the microphone.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We don't have anything
23 to read.

24 MR. DALTON: Would it be of assistance,
25 Mr. President, if I gave an overview? I can

1 make that up on the fly. So pardon any
2 tongue-twisters here, but there are a few
3 funds that are required to be capital
4 planned, the General Fund being one of them.
5 The General Fund had \$406,000 in it at the
6 end of December. We planned in the General
7 Fund to replace equipment, an IT equipment
8 that is normally replaced on a --

9 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Mr. Dalton, let me
10 interrupt and let me ask the question -- and
11 I don't want us to do anything on the fly
12 because we have until September.

13 MR. DALTON: We do.

14 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: My suggestion
15 would be, have an opportunity for that plan
16 to be placed here at Township for anybody
17 that can come and review it. And then at
18 the next meeting we can hold a public
19 hearing and we could pass it. I don't want
20 you trying at the last minute to go over it.

21 And then what I'm going to say now is
22 that we can, you know, delay this action
23 until the next meeting. Until that time,
24 can you place that option if anyone wants to
25 come and review that capital plan, they can

1 come to the Township and they can review it.
2 And if they want to get a copy and whatever
3 the process is for getting a copy, they can
4 go about that policy. And then they come to
5 the next meeting and ask any questions.

6 MR. DALTON: I think the answer is yes.
7 We can do that; correct?

8 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes. That's fair.

9 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: So I would make a
10 motion to defer Resolution 2020-5 for the
11 sole reason of individuals in the public
12 having an opportunity to come to Township,
13 review the Capital Improvement Plan and be
14 prepared to ask questions, if they want to
15 do so, at the next Calumet Township Board
16 meeting. Is there a second?

17 MR. PIGGEE: I second.

18 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Roll call,
19 Ms. Bonds -- oh, you have a question?

20 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I have a statement.
21 We would be willing, also, to put it on our
22 website in case anyone wants to review it
23 from there as well.

24 MR. PIGGEE: Very good.

25 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Let that be added

1 to the amendment -- not the amendment -- to
2 the notes that anyone who would like to also
3 look at the website and get that information
4 is privy to the website.

5 MR. PIGGEE: Okay.

6 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Roll call,
7 Ms. Bonds.

8 MS. BONDS: Mr. Piggee?

9 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

10 MS. BONDS: Ms. Holmes?

11 MS. HOLMES: Yes.

12 MS. BONDS: Mr. Washington?

13 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

14 With three yeses, zero nays, the motion
15 carries.

16 We will bring this back at the next Cal
17 Township Board meeting.

18 At this time do we have any comments
19 from the public regarding Township matters,
20 if you have any comments?

21 (NO RESPONSE.)

22 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Hearing none.
23 Trustee Robinson?

24 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Mr. Chairman and
25 community members, partners, employees,

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1 thank you for coming today as today was an
2 off day as it's President's Day, so I wish
3 you all a happy President's Day.

4 We just want to give you some updates of
5 things that we are participating in as a
6 Township. We are currently an active
7 community partner for the Gary Complete
8 Count, which is a collective group of
9 agencies and organizations helping to get
10 the census information out and make sure
11 that everyone in our community is counted.
12 As you all know, that affects funding for
13 all of us here in our community.

14 We're also working with a veteran Jim
15 Chancellor with a program that was
16 coordinated by North Township Trustee Frank
17 Mrvan and Frank County Prosecutor Bernard
18 Carter. I think upcoming Saturday,
19 Ms. Hunter --

20 MS. HUNTER: Yes.

21 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: -- is our last
22 Saturday. We've been doing this since
23 December where it's called technically or
24 officially in the military world, it's
25 called a Stand Down, where they go or

1 whomever finds homeless veterans, come there
2 to the multi-purpose center for the day and
3 overnight actually for -- and it costs us
4 nothing except we have donated the actual
5 place.

6 And we are going to begin to work with a
7 group who will focus primarily on female
8 veterans because they are sometimes the most
9 forgotten. And since our multi-purpose
10 center is already set up for females with
11 children and single females, we just want to
12 add something extra to the whole grouping of
13 that.

14 And I just want to thank Ms. Hunter
15 publicly. She is the manager of the
16 multi-purpose center and has been very
17 helpful throughout this whole process of
18 these events.

19 The shelter is also listed, if you all
20 don't know as board members, as a warming
21 center during the cold months and as a
22 cooling center during the hot months.

23 And on Wednesday I will be accompanying
24 some students down as a chaperone to
25 Indianapolis. So while I'm there, I'm going

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1 to actually try to barge in, if I don't get
2 an appointment, for some of our legislators
3 because Senate Bill 365 did move over to the
4 House. And so if I have a chance to speak
5 with any of them just by chance or just
6 going to sit outside their office until
7 they're available, I will.

8 I know we have talked about the whole
9 Griffith piece and knowing that we will be
10 fine if Griffith does get a chance to leave
11 us, but I just don't like the whole
12 perception of what they are doing as far as
13 our community that we represent and that
14 they're a part of. Because as you saw the
15 breakdown, I think Township received maybe a
16 little over \$700,000, Gary Community Schools
17 received an amount and the City of Gary. So
18 all three of the entities really have
19 something to lose. Ours probably being the
20 most but less effective versus the city or
21 the school district.

22 So any other, you know, piece about how
23 irresponsible we are here or we have been
24 here at Calumet Township, and that's not me.
25 I have not had eight years to straighten

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1 this out. So I really want to get before
2 Senator Niemeyer just to have him correct
3 his statements and just speak to them about
4 it. So I just want to let you know. And
5 I'll let you know the outcome of my
6 conversations. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Madam Trustee, has
8 it been assigned to committee yet in the
9 House?

10 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Not to my knowledge.
11 The last thing I got from Senator Melton was
12 that it did go there, and I think they were
13 on a short week. It could have been as
14 early as two weeks ago, and I saw
15 Representative Hatcher out, and she said
16 they were on a short week, so I don't think
17 anything was done, but it did merely pass
18 over so --

19 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: He did a great job
20 in articulating the issues.

21 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Right.

22 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: And I heard the
23 other taxing unit. We had a conversation
24 about that.

25 MR. PIGGEE: Madam Trustee, that's the

1 27th you're going down to Indianapolis?

2 Because the NAACP has two buses going down
3 on the 27th.

4 THE BOARD MEMBERS: No, I'm going
5 Wednesday, the 19th.

6 MR. PIGGEE: Oh, you're going the 19th.

7 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: The day after
8 tomorrow, in two days.

9 MR. PIGGEE: Okay. Because the school
10 is going on the 27th to the House. Another
11 thing, I'm very proud --

12 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: It's her chance,
13 Mr. Piggee.

14 MR. PIGGEE: Okay. I'm sorry,
15 Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry.

16 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Madam Trustee,
17 anything else?

18 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I'm done. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Ms. Holmes?

20 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: No comment.

21 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Mr. Piggee.

22 MR. PIGGEE: I appreciate it. Madam
23 Chair --

24 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Trustee.

25 MR. PIGGEE: I mean Trustee, I'm very

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1 proud of the things that you do in terms of
2 different organizations, like the Gary
3 Frontiers, their breakfasts. I'm very glad
4 to see you and the staff there because we
5 need that kind of input to these different
6 organizations because these organizations
7 are very strong. And the Trustee's office
8 is very, very strong, and you got a very
9 good staff.

10 I need to ask you a question. Are you
11 employing any new staff members?

12 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Wait a minute. Is
13 that considered a personnel item within the
14 executive session?

15 ATTORNEY WILLIAMS: No, because it's not
16 talking about existing personnel.

17 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. I just
18 wanted to make sure.

19 MR. PIGGEE: Thank you, Attorney
20 Williams.

21 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: At this time we have
22 had some people retire or go to, I guess,
23 better opportunities, and we are not filling
24 any positions. We're just moving around
25 some inside people as we are. That's where

1 we are. So -- but we're always open to take
2 applications, resumes. And you know, in the
3 event that we do have an opening, we would
4 be happy to, you know, look for -- through
5 the paperwork for consideration.

6 We're going to be planning our job fair
7 for --

8 Do you remember, Ms. Cogan (phonetic),
9 offhand, the next --

10 MS. COGAN: Tuesday, April 14th.

11 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Tuesday, April 14th?
12 No, that's not that one. That's the one --
13 okay. So well, we're going to have our
14 spring job fair coming up. I'm sorry to go
15 off task, but that's another program or
16 another group that we're working with
17 through the urban league where Ivy Tech,
18 they have a number of opportunities for free
19 education and training.

20 With the boats coming or the newer boat
21 coming, they're offering free classes for
22 dealers, so they've been asking us to help
23 them and get some students because they
24 don't want to lose this money because they
25 can't spend it. So that is what Ms. Cogan

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1 is speaking of.

2 MR. PIGGEE: Okay.

3 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: But our annual
4 spring -- we try to have a spring and a fall
5 job fair with local and sometimes a little
6 bit outside of our area. They come in.
7 Last -- we were at the multi-purpose. The
8 last job fair, we had the front and back
9 rooms were filled. So it was more than 25
10 employers ready to hire some on the spot.
11 So we usually refer people to those places
12 as well, and we keep contact with some of
13 those employers. As they call us, they may
14 need six laborers just like that, and we go
15 through our files of our customers to see --
16 you know, because that's our main job is to
17 try to help them find employment so they can
18 remove themselves from the system.

19 MR. PIGGEE: To try to find employment,
20 you're saying?

21 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes.

22 MR. PIGGEE: You still have a person in
23 that position?

24 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes, we do. We had a
25 person that -- we had two people there.

1 MR. PIGGEE: Because I know one went to
2 city hall.

3 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Right. Yes, yes.
4 Ms. Pruitt left on her own free will. And
5 the person that was working with her in
6 that, it was two of them, we moved him up,
7 and we moved another lady from the
8 multi-purpose center who was also working
9 with them in the job search works
10 department, so we have our two people again.

11 MR. PIGGEE: Okay. But the person that
12 you moved from the multi-purpose center, you
13 moved that person out there --

14 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: We moved a person out
15 there. We don't have any openings at this
16 time, Mr. Piggee.

17 MR. PIGGEE: Okay. I'm just being
18 noseey.

19 Another thing, Mr. Chair.

20 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Go ahead,
21 Mr. Piggee.

22 MR. PIGGEE: The NAACP is having a lot
23 of events this month. I mean, there's a lot
24 of events that's going on. And just like I
25 was telling you of one I know is that we're

1 taking the students -- and I'm involved in
2 that. We're taking the students to
3 Indianapolis. We're getting about 60 of
4 them, and we're taking them down to the
5 State House. And that's basically it. I
6 can't think of all these events that's going
7 on this month, for the month of February. I
8 can't think of them all. But go ahead
9 Mr. Chair, I'm finished.

10 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: You good?

11 (INAUDIBLE QUESTION ASKED.)

12 MR. FIGGEE: Oh, I know that. The high
13 school students or the ones coming from West
14 Side I know about. They're coming from West
15 Side, and it's going to be about two buses
16 from West Side. And that's on the 27th of
17 February. They're leaving about between
18 6:00 and 6:30 that morning.

19 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay.

20 THE BOARD MEMBERS: NAACP is going to
21 feed them breakfast and the lunches. Okay.

22 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: My comments will
23 be brief.

24 Mr. Dalton, you're absolutely correct.
25 I really believe that this legislation that

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1 was passed regarding the Capital Improvement
2 Plan was around the same time where they
3 were trying to look at another way to get
4 rid of the Township boards and to have
5 another system of checks and balances and
6 have the Trustee have to go to the County
7 Council, which I thought was very asinine.

8 But fortunately for us, as board
9 members, you need to know this, because the
10 majority of the Township boards are
11 Republican, they didn't allow that to
12 happen. So we're blessed to be here as
13 township board members.

14 Again, I did get a chance to speak with
15 Senator Melton. And Kim, I'm glad you're
16 going to be down there to watch the
17 legislation. It's not the fact that -- it's
18 just -- I just didn't like the way Senator
19 Niemeyer tried to avert all the work that
20 the Trustee and the staff has done over the
21 last several years to make it seem like the
22 reason why they were going to go. Actually,
23 the legislation puts them in Ross Township,
24 and my contact there says they don't even
25 want Griffith to come into Ross Township,

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1 but they were -- the legislation puts them
2 there.

3 And again, Mr. Piggee, if we're talking
4 about the NAACP lunches and going to
5 Indianapolis is fine, but I think they need
6 to step it up because I think this is some
7 systematic racism geared towards our county.
8 Over a year ago, if they couldn't find
9 anybody to get into that Township, then they
10 were to revert back here. And they continue
11 to give them opportunity after opportunity
12 to jump ship from us, and they don't do that
13 anywhere else.

14 The other thing that I think is really
15 sad and unfortunate about this, this move by
16 the legislature sets up terrible, terrible
17 precedent with any other township who makes
18 the decision that they don't like any city
19 or town, that they don't want to be a part
20 of their township. If you let this happen,
21 you open the door for a lot of
22 discombobulation again, and they don't look
23 at that.

24 And Madam Trustee, I want to ask you,
25 have you been able to talk with the chairman

1 of the Indiana Association of Townships
2 about this?

3 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I have not. I put an
4 email to her and a call, and she has not
5 returned any, so I'll try as well to find
6 her to let her know that I'm coming.

7 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay.

8 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: But I'm feeling some
9 kind of way -- I'm glad you said that about
10 it because that is part of their job. And
11 as dues-paying members, you know, when we
12 need them to help and --

13 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

14 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Because I was
15 surprised they had not had their annual
16 legislative roundup, and I'll check and see
17 if they have a date for that because I think
18 last year it was around the 24th or
19 something to that, but yeah, that's
20 disappointing.

21 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yeah. So
22 Mr. Piggee, I know you're real deep into the
23 NAACP, but get them and Urban League and
24 others to kind of deal with this situation
25 because it's unfair.

1 MR. PIGGEE: Let me make a suggestion.
2 Our NAACP meeting is the first Thursday of
3 each month at Ivy Tech University, the new
4 building at 35th and Broadway. I'm going to
5 invite all of you at the next meeting so we
6 can bring this out. Because Steve Mays,
7 who's the president, he's not afraid of
8 anything and go after anything.

9 So I'm going to ask you, Mr. Chair, and
10 the Judge and Ms. Holmes and the Trustee and
11 Attorney Williams and Ms. Smith and the rest
12 of you, you're invited for the next one,
13 which is March -- the first Thursday in
14 March. It starts at 6:00 o'clock. And you
15 will have a chance to talk.

16 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Again, I support
17 the NAACP. And I just think that a lot of
18 times there's a concern about potential
19 litigation from people when you start, you
20 know, bringing up things. And I understand
21 that, but there is precedents set to show
22 that this township is being targeted by the
23 state when the Trustee's office has clearly
24 cut the budget.

25 And he made -- and it's not the fact

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1 that he's being unfair. He made false
2 claims in his statement that need to be
3 corrected, so I support what you're doing to
4 talk to him about that. And he ought to
5 know better because he's from here, and if
6 he has any questions, I think it would be
7 safe to say he didn't pick up the telephone
8 call and ask us anything before he made
9 those statements, but that's my statements.

10 The Chair would like to entertain -- not
11 entertain -- make a motion for adjournment.

12 MR. PIGGEE: You didn't give Ms. Holmes
13 a chance to say anything.

14 MS. HOLMES: I was first.

15 MR. PIGGEE: She was first? Excuse me,
16 Mr. Chair, I'm sorry.

17 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: You just weren't
18 paying any attention.

19 I'm going to make a motion for
20 adjournment.

21 MR. PIGGEE: So moved.

22 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All in favor
23 signify by saying aye.

24 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

25 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: No nays, the ayes

1 have it. The motion carries.

2 You have something else?

3 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yeah, I did. I was
4 just saying that you had asked or you had
5 mentioned -- I don't know if we have to
6 reopen the meeting, but you had mentioned
7 that anyone could ask about on the next
8 meeting. Are you going to have another
9 meeting sometime soon?

10 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Oh, you're talking
11 about the public hearing?

12 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yeah, on the capital
13 plan because even though our next meeting
14 might not be until September and that's not
15 due until September, you don't have that
16 much time in between. Perhaps you can think
17 of something. When we download that onto
18 the website, we can have a date for the
19 hearing possible or to be announced at
20 least.

21 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. We'll make
22 a meeting for April. I'll get with you and
23 look at a date in April.

24 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Okay. Great.

25 (MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6:42 PM.)

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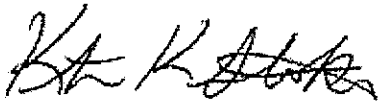
1 STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS:
 2 COUNTY OF LAKE)

3 THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
 4 GARY, INDIANA

5
 6
 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 Signed this 24th day of February, 2020.

19
 20 

21 _____
 KRISTEN K. STOKES, CSR
 22 CSR# 084-003723

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

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 February 17, 2020, were approved by
9 the Board of Trustees on the 20th day of
10 July, 2020.

11
12 Darren Washington
13 Darren Washington, Board Chairman

14
15 Jacqueline Holmes
16 Jacqueline Holmes, Board Secretary

17
18 James Piggee
19 James Piggee, Board Member

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