

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

January 5, 2021
FINANCE MEETING

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

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1
2 THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP FINANCE MEETING3 GARY, INDIANA
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78 REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had at the meeting
9 before the Local Board of Finance, reported by
10 Kristen K. Stokes, CSR, Notary Public in and for the
11 County of Lake, State of Indiana, taken at 610
12 Connecticut Street, Gary, Indiana, on January 5,
13 2021, scheduled to begin at 6:20 p.m. in the
14 evening.
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17
18
19
2021 BOSS REPORTERS
22 & VIDEOCONFERENCING
23 GARY * MERRILLVILLE * VALPARAISO, INDIANA
24 (219) 769-9090
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APPEARANCES:

Jacqueline Holmes, Board Secretary

James Piggee, Board Member

Kimberly Robinson, Township Trustee

Sherita Smith, Chief Deputy

Toyka Cunningham, Acting Executive Secretary

Deidre Monroe, Board Attorney

Rinzer Williams, III, Township Attorney

Trista Hudson, Financial Advisor

and

Members of the Public

* * * * *

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1 (FINANCE MEETING COMMENCED AT 6:20 PM.)
2 MS. HOLMES: Okay. All right. So I'd
3 like to call to order, and we are going to
4 keep the President and the Secretary the
5 same.
6 Mr. Piggee?
7 MR. PIGGEE: I second it.
8 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: You have to take a
9 vote.
10 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Piggee?
11 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.
12 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Ms. Holmes?
13 MS. HOLMES: Yes.
14 Okay. So next on the agenda is
15 Acceptance of the Board of Finance Reports
16 for 2020. Madam Trustee?
17 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: No, that would be you
18 all. It was submitted from Cender & Cender.
19 So we submitted it to you for acceptance.
20 Ms. Trista, do you have something?
21 MS. HUDSON: I do.
22 Madame Trustee and the Board, we were
23 able to update the numbers from the very end
24 of December, even though today is only
25 Tuesday. So if I may, I'll pass them

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1 around. I don't know what the procedure
2 here is during COVID, but these would be the
3 most up-to-date numbers for you to finish
4 out 2020.

5 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: We remain in the
6 positive; right?

7 MS. HUDSON: Absolutely.

8 So the good news is the Township is in
9 great financial position. You were able to
10 weather well the COVID storms because there
11 were some reserves available which allowed
12 you to still help the residents. You're not
13 in debt at all. Everything balanced well.

14 I'll talk you through a couple pages
15 here just real quickly. The most important
16 step for the Board of Finance today is to
17 recognize and accept this report and
18 recognize Page 1 especially, which is the
19 interest earnings that you received off the
20 investments. Just over \$20,000. So that
21 is, of course, a bonus and a benefit to the
22 Township.

23 The following pages then just lay out
24 for you a couple things. Page 2 are the
25 taxes that were collected, which was just

1 over 5 million and almost 98 percent of what
2 you were able to collect after the circuit
3 breaker is in place. And so the Township
4 did receive virtually all of the tax monies
5 that it expected.

6 Page 3 simply shows that the assessed
7 value of the property in the Township
8 increased again this year by \$35 million, so
9 that's always helpful and good for the
10 overall property values in the Township.

11 The last page shows some comparative tax
12 rates. It allows you to see where you are
13 in line from year to year and then also what
14 some of the residents pay based on where
15 they live within the Township.

16 2021 is not released for this coming
17 year quite yet. It will be about two weeks,
18 or so, before all the budgets are finalized
19 before I have that final number. So I
20 certainly expect that we'll provide you an
21 update to that page at the February meeting,
22 assuming that no other towns or cities or
23 counties have any problem with their budget
24 approval. But we should be able to update
25 you for the current numbers at that time.

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1 MS. HOLMES: Thank you very much.

2 ATTORNEY MONROE: Attorney Williams, is
3 there anything additional we have to do
4 since we have different numbers?

5 ATTORNEY WILLIAMS: Just approve it,
6 take action and approve the numbers that
7 were presented.

8 ATTORNEY MONROE: Any public comment
9 about this one, Attorney Williams?

10 ATTORNEY WILLIAMS: Yes.

11 MS. HOLMES: Anyone from the public like
12 to make a comment? None?

13 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I would just like to
14 say for the record that the initial
15 documents that were presented, it had us at
16 \$19,855.69 as our gain, and the newer one
17 that she just spoke of took us to \$21,123 in
18 interest, so I just wanted the numbers to be
19 documented. Thank you.

20 MS. HOLMES: Mr. Piggee, any comment?

21 MR. PIGGEE: No. I like what I heard,
22 so I have no comment.

23 MS. HOLMES: I don't have any comments
24 tonight. Thank you for bearing with me
25 being the Chair.

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1 ATTORNEY MONROE: Move for approval.

2 MS. HOLMES: So I'd like to move for
3 approval.

4 MR. PIGGEE: Second.

5 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Okay. Roll call.

6 Mr. Piggee?

7 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

8 MS. CUNNINGHAM: And Ms. Holmes?

9 MS. HOLMES: Yes.

10 All right. So 2020 -- well, the board
11 has approved the Board of Finance report.

12 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

13 MS. HOLMES: All right. Here we go.

14 Public, do you have any comments? No
15 comments?

16 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: They're ready to go.

17 I should have saved my comments to the
18 end, but it's still the same, about the
19 difference between the old numbers and what
20 we got today. It's always good to be in the
21 positive.

22 MS. HOLMES: Mr. Piggee?

23 MR. PIGGEE: None. No additional
24 comments at all, except for I want

25 Ms. Robinson and H.R. to really think about

1 what we talked about, hiring some more males
2 in this area.

3 MS. SMITH: Please stop saying that.

4 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Just say, "hiring,"
5 Mr. Piggee, because you don't want to be
6 gender specific.

7 MS. SMITH: Right.

8 MR. PIGGEE: Hiring.

9 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: You don't want that
10 noted.

11 MR. PIGGEE: Hiring. Okay. Other than
12 that, I'm through with my comments.

13 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Okay.

14 MS. HOLMES: I'd like to make a motion
15 to adjourn the meeting.

16 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

17 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Okay. Ms. Holmes?

18 MS. HOLMES: Yes.

19 MS. CUNNINGHAM: And Mr. Piggee?

20 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

21 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Okay. Meeting
22 adjourned. Thank you.

23

24 (FINANCE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6:35 PM.)

25

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

4 THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP FINANCE MEETING
5 GARY, INDIANA

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 11th day of January, 2021.
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

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

January 5, 2021
REGULAR MEETING

BOSS REPORTERS
*Gary * Merrillville * Valparaiso, Indiana*
3893 East Lincoln Highway (Rt. 30)
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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 5,
2021, scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. in the
evening.

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& VIDEOCONFERENCING
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APPEARANCES:

Jacqueline Holmes, Board Secretary

James Piggee, Board Member

Kimberly Robinson, Township Trustee

Sherita Smith, Chief Deputy

Toyka Cunningham, Acting Executive Secretary

Deidre Monroe, Board Attorney

Rinzer Williams, III, Township Attorney

Trista Hudson, Financial Advisor

and

Members of the Public

* * * * *

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1 (BOARD MEETING COMMENCED AT 6:00 PM.)

2 MS. HOLMES: Welcome, ladies and
3 gentlemen, to the Calumet Township board
4 meeting. Let's all stand for the pledge of
5 allegiance, please.

6 (PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE RECITED.)

7 MS. HOLMES: Okay. Call to order.
8 Darren is not here today, so I'm running the
9 meeting tonight.

10 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: All right.

11 MS. HOLMES: First thing on the agenda
12 is the reorganization of the Township Board.
13 We are not making any changes. We're
14 leaving everything the same.

15 MR. PIGGEE: So moved. I second the
16 motion.

17 MS. HOLMES: Roll call.

18 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Piggee?

19 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

20 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Ms. Holmes?

21 MS. HOLMES: Yes.

22 Okay. Approval of minutes for
23 October 19th of 2020. Does anybody have any
24 questions, or is there anything -- any
25 concerns? None?

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1 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Nope.

2 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Piggee?

3 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Uh-uh. You need a
4 motion.

5 ATTORNEY MONROE: You can make a motion.

6 MS. HOLMES: Okay. I'd like to make a
7 motion to approve the minutes.

8 Okay. Mr. Piggee, I'm sorry?

9 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

10 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Do you second?

11 MR. PIGGEE: Yeah, I second it.

12 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Ms. Holmes?

13 MS. HOLMES: Yes.

14 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Piggee?

15 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

16 MS. HOLMES: With two present, we have
17 enough for approval of the minutes.

18 MR. PIGGEE: For a quorum.

19 MS. HOLMES: So we have a Resolution
20 2021-01, post bonds and transfer balance.

21 ATTORNEY MONROE: That would be the
22 Trustee.

23 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: That's me. Okay. I
24 would defer this to our accountant. Yes?

25 MS. HUDSON: Trista Hudson here covering

1 for Steve Dalton.

2 First, Madam Trustee, my apologies for
3 walking in late, but I understand my time
4 was wrong. I apologize. I thought it was
5 6:30. I apologize for that and to the board
6 as well. My apologies.

7 This first resolution today is simply to
8 kind of clear up the funds a little bit,
9 make them more, I guess, organized. We are
10 closing out the Recreation Fund, and any
11 balance is moving into the General Fund.
12 There are still available monies to use. It
13 will just be a little easier for the
14 accounting process, and it makes no effect
15 at all on your tax levy. You still would
16 receive what you would have if they were
17 separate.

18 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Any questions?

19 MS. HOLMES: Any questions? Public
20 comment? Okay. Board comment?

21 MR. PIGGEE: None.

22 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Uh-uh. You still
23 have to vote on that. And then I have
24 resolution 2021-02.

25 MS. HOLMES: Okay.

1 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: And then the contract
2 and then you vote. Someone needs to make a
3 motion that you accept the resolution.

4 MR. PIGGEE: I move that we accept the
5 Resolution 2021-01.

6 MS. HOLMES: I second.

7 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Roll call. Ms. Holmes?

8 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes.

9 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Piggee?

10 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

11 MS. HOLMES: With two yeses, the
12 approval of the Resolution No. 2020-01 has
13 been passed.

14 The next item would be Resolution
15 2021-02. Close fund and transfer balance.

16 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Uh-uh.

17 MS. HOLMES: Oh, I'm sorry. 2021-02 is
18 COVID accounting transfers.

19 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Right. Again, I'll
20 refer to Ms. Hudson.

21 MS. HUDSON: Thank you. This is just a
22 housekeeping matter. As you're aware the
23 Township received just shy of \$69,000 as
24 CARES Act reimbursement money for expenses
25 you had related to the fight against the

1 COVID virus. There are certain ways that
2 that money needs to be accounted for so the
3 State Board of Accounts sees that it was
4 spent correctly. That has all happened.
5 And this resolution simply clears up the
6 final step to put that reimbursement money
7 back to the funds where it belongs.

8 MR. PIGGEE: I've got a question.

9 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes,

10 MR. PIGGEE: You said the money is for
11 this virus; right?

12 MS. HUDSON: For prevention and response
13 to it.

14 MR. PIGGEE: Now, who will handle this
15 money?

16 MS. HUDSON: The program was set up from
17 the federal government as a reimbursement
18 for things that you already spent. So the
19 temperature sensor downstairs by the front
20 door, for example.

21 MR. PIGGEE: Uh-huh, right.

22 MS. HUDSON: The Township would have
23 purchased that with your regular General
24 Fund money or whichever fund you used. And
25 then this reimbursement money goes back to

1 replace that and then frees up your general
2 fund money for other expenses of your daily
3 routines.

4 MR. PIGGEE: Okay. Thank you.

5 MS. HUDSON: We had to provide receipts
6 that it had been spent and things like that.

7 MR. PIGGEE: Thank you.

8 MS. HOLMES: Any concerns or questions
9 from the public? None?

10 ATTORNEY MONROE: Any questions from the
11 Board?

12 MR. PIGGEE: No.

13 MS. HOLMES: I'd like to make a motion
14 for the approval of the Resolution 2020-02
15 COVID accounting transfers.

16 MR. PIGGEE: I second.

17 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: All right.

18 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Roll call. Ms. Holmes?

19 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes.

20 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Piggee?

21 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

22 MS. HOLMES: Okay. With two yes, the
23 approval of the 2021-02 COVID accounting
24 transfer has been approved.

25 Okay. Next thing on the agenda is

1 contracts, Attorney Deidre Monroe.

2 ATTORNEY MONROE: So both contracts, my
3 contract as well as Boss Reporters'
4 contract. Both contracts are pretty much
5 the same for the calendar year 2021.

6 MS. HOLMES: Any questions or statements
7 from the audience?

8 ATTORNEY MONROE: Mr. Piggee?

9 MR. PIGGEE: No. I second.

10 ATTORNEY MONROE: Any comments?

11 MR. PIGGEE: No comments.

12 MS. HOLMES: Roll call.

13 ATTORNEY MONROE: A motion.

14 MS. HOLMES: Oh, I'd like to make a
15 motion for the approval.

16 MR. PIGGEE: I second it.

17 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Okay. Ms. Holmes?

18 MS. HOLMES: Yes.

19 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Piggee?

20 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

21 MS. HOLMES: Okay. With two yes, the
22 approval has been passed.

23 Okay. The next agenda is public
24 comments. Anybody have any comments? And
25 if so, you can come to the mic and make a

1 comment. None?

2 MR. PIGGEE: Yeah, I have a comment.

3 ATTORNEY MONROE: It's the Trustee
4 first.

5 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Can I go first,
6 Mr. Piggee?

7 MR. PIGGEE: You sure can.

8 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: All right. Thank
9 you.

10 Okay. So I just have some of the ending
11 hallmarks and highlights for the office.

12 As Ms. Hudson told us earlier, in
13 October we received \$68,972.78. It was our
14 request for our COVID expenses for
15 reimbursement. Our actual or original
16 request was \$155,180, and of that \$86,207.27
17 was not approved because that was food
18 vouchers and cards that we had given out as
19 emergency, and they said that that was
20 already a part of our budget to do that.

21 So -- but I think we can be pleased with
22 getting, you know, a little less than half,
23 which would have been 77,000. So again, the
24 reimbursement went back into the General
25 Fund. State Board of Accounts had some

1 very, very stickler -- strict rules on the
2 reimbursement. So thanks to Mr. Dalton and
3 his staff and our Finance Department that
4 put that together.

5 Then in both November and December we
6 partnered with Reverend R.E. Robinson of
7 St. John Missionary Baptist Church. He
8 called us in November and asked us for 40
9 families to help during the holiday season.
10 We also had our own annual Thanksgiving
11 basket where there were 20 families that we
12 helped in addition to the 40, and 20 turkeys
13 were donated from the American Brake &
14 Muffler family, that they do that every year
15 as well.

16 So for that first one we worked towards
17 getting a list of veterans and seniors. And
18 so in December Reverend R.E. called us again
19 and said could I give him 40 more families
20 for Christmas the same way. So that one was
21 focused more on seniors and those with
22 larger families. So we sent him a very nice
23 thank you card and donation.

24 We had our annual coat and toy drive
25 giveaway for children 0 through 18. Our

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1 vendor Brady's This Is It, we got a hundred
2 \$100 gift certificates, and out of that we
3 only have 14 people today who have not
4 showed to receive the gift certificate to
5 buy coats for children 0 to 18.

6 Other churches and organizations we
7 partner, with, St. Timothy Community Church
8 Angel Tree, New Shiloh Missionary Baptist
9 Church Toy Drive and the YWCA of Gary with
10 their 100-year celebration.

11 Currently, we continue to partner with
12 the City of Gary as we are -- our 1900 West
13 41st Avenue multi-purpose serves as a
14 cooling/warming center. And any time the
15 temperature is 32 or below we have allowed
16 anyone to come over from Ambridge Mann,
17 where the city is doing an overnight
18 shelter.

19 And staff and myself worked on Christmas
20 Eve and Christmas Day, just a half a day,
21 but we were there, and we had each other.
22 So now that we are back to full service
23 hours from 8:00 to 4:00, I'm pretty sure we
24 may have -- and we've had some people in
25 between -- and we will schedule our weekends

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1 accordingly so --

2 We're also back to full service here at
3 the main office. At the end of November
4 we closed for a week and returned on
5 December 7th, and we had a small outbreak,
6 but everyone since has tested negative, and
7 we are happy that we are able to keep our
8 bubble tight.

9 So bonus pay went well. I don't believe
10 anyone got exactly \$800 because the way
11 taxes are set up, but most were grateful and
12 appreciative of the bonus. So we're looking
13 through past resolutions to see if there's
14 such a resolution that speaks to longevity
15 pay, or we'll develop one that may include
16 elected officials equally, as they have in
17 the county.

18 So I have this card from the staff to
19 read to the board. It says, "When you sew
20 seeds of kindness, you reap a harvest of
21 appreciation. Thank you for being a
22 blessing." So it's signed by most of the
23 staff, and they gratefully appreciated that,
24 what they told me.

25 With that, I believe I am done, and I

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1 just want to wish us all a very productive
2 and prosperous 2021.

3 MS. HOLMES: Thank you very much for the
4 card. That was very nice, very nice.

5 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Thank you. I've got
6 to share it.

7 MS. HOLMES: Any questions?

8 MR. PIGGEE: Well, I would like to make
9 a comment. Ms. Robinson and I talked
10 earlier concerning a hiring mechanism for
11 young graduate males, and I did bring a
12 resume with me, Ms. Robinson, and I would
13 like to pass this resume on to you.

14 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Uh-huh.

15 MR. PIGGEE: Because you and I talked
16 about hiring some males and people --

17 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: We talked about
18 hiring. Don't be so sexist.

19 MR. PIGGEE: Well, you told me --

20 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I understand.

21 MR. PIGGEE: -- this year you would be
22 hiring, and I did bring a resume.

23 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Okay. We'll hand it
24 over to the H.R. Department.

25 MR. PIGGEE: Okay. Thank you. So

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1 that's what I've done so far.

2 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I'm happy to see you,
3 Coach Piggee, and see that you're well and
4 doing much better.

5 MR. PIGGEE: Well, thank you.

6 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: The last time I heard
7 about that, really, I said some earnest
8 prayers for you.

9 MR. PIGGEE: I needed them.

10 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I don't know what
11 we'd do without you.

12 MR. PIGGEE: I needed them because I was
13 in the hospital for a week and a half.

14 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yeah, I heard.

15 MR. PIGGEE: They thought I had the
16 virus, but it wasn't.

17 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Oh, okay.

18 MR. PIGGEE: And so I praised God for
19 all of the prayers and the prayers from all
20 of you out in the audience.

21 MS. HOLMES: Any comments from the
22 audience?

23 MR. PIGGEE: Oh, can you pass this
24 around to Ms. Robinson.

25 MS. HOLMES: Sure.

1 Since there are no other comments, I'd
2 like to make a motion to adjourn the
3 meeting.

4 MR. PIGGEE: So moved.

5 MS. HOLMES: Mr. Piggee?

6 ATTORNEY MONROE: He seconded it.

7 MR. PIGGEE: I second it.

8 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: So the meeting is
9 adjourned.

10 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Ms. Piggee -- I'm
11 sorry. Mr. Piggee?

12 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

13 MS. CUNNINGHAM: And Ms. Holmes?

14 MS. HOLMES: Yes.

15 MS. CUNNINGHAM: The meeting is
16 adjourned at 6:16.

17
18 (TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING WAS CONCLUDED.)

19

20

21

22

23

24

25


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

4 THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
5 GARY, INDIANA

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 11th day of January, 2021.

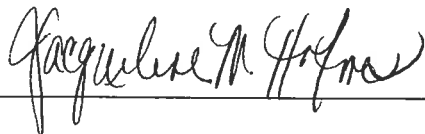
19
20 
21 _____
22 KRISTEN K. STOKES, CSR
23 CSR# 084-003723

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

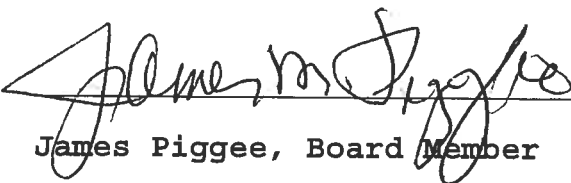
1 STATE OF INDIANA)
2) SS:
3 COUNTY OF LAKE)

4 THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
5 GARY, INDIANA

6
7 These minutes of the Calumet Township Board
8 meeting held on January 5, 2021, were approved by
9 the Board of Trustees on the _____ day of
10 _____, 2021.

11
12
13 
14 _____

15 Jacqueline Holmes, Board Secretary

16
17
18 
19 _____

20 James Piggee, Board Member
21
22
23
24
25

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