

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

---

*February 17, 2020  
REGULAR MEETING*

---

*BOSS REPORTERS  
Gary \* Merrillville \* Valparaiso, Indiana  
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Merrillville, Indiana 46410  
(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

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 yeases 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,

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

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

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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

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.

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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. PIGGEE: 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

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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

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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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 22 KRISTEN K. STOKES, CSR  
 CSR# 084-003723

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



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

4 THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
5 GARY, INDIANA

6  
7 These minutes of the Calumet Township Board  
8 meeting held on February 17, 2020, were approved by  
9 the Board of Trustees on the 20<sup>th</sup> 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

	<b>13:23</b>	<b>37:18</b>	<b>18:24</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>\$</b>	<b>ahead (8)</b>	<b>Attorney (10)</b>	<b>betcha (1)</b>	<b>Cal (1)</b>
<b>\$406,000 (1)</b>	7:19;13:23;14:14,	12:14;13:22;18:13,	17:20	22:16
20:5	15,21;19:9;31:20;	18,22;19:6,15;28:15,	<b>better (2)</b>	<b>call (11)</b>
<b>\$700,000 (3)</b>	32:8	19;36:11	28:23;37:5	3:10;4:13;7:8;8:3;
5:18;6:8;25:16	<b>Allegiance (2)</b>	<b>audience (2)</b>	<b>bigger (1)</b>	12:4;18:10;21:18;
<b>\$820,000 (1)</b>	3:6,7	19:18,22	13:16	22:6;30:13;35:4;37:8
6:17	<b>allow (3)</b>	<b>audit (2)</b>	<b>Bill (1)</b>	<b>called (2)</b>
	5:2;18:13;33:11	8:11,21	25:3	23:23,25
<b>A</b>	<b>always (1)</b>	<b>audited (1)</b>	<b>binding (1)</b>	<b>Calumet (6)</b>
	29:1	8:15	15:4	3:4;9:9,24;14:1;
	<b>amended (1)</b>	<b>auditing (1)</b>	<b>bit (5)</b>	21:15;25:24
	15:3	8:12	5:14;9:18;12:20;	<b>came (2)</b>
<b>able (2)</b>	<b>amendment (2)</b>	<b>audits (2)</b>	14:11;30:6	9:15;13:17
11:19;34:25	22:1,1	8:16,25	<b>blessed (1)</b>	<b>can (33)</b>
<b>Absolutely (2)</b>	<b>amount (2)</b>	<b>available (1)</b>	33:12	5:12,24;9:11;
19:13;32:24	10:16;25:17	25:7	<b>BOARD (18)</b>	13:15;15:3,8;16:11,
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13:18	7:19,24;8:7,24;9:7;	14:19	24:20;27:4;32:20;	22,24,25;21:1,3,7;
<b>Accounts (2)</b>	11:1;30:3;35:15	<b>aye (2)</b>	33:8,13;37:24	30:17;36:6;38:16,18
8:9;9:2	<b>annually (2)</b>	37:23,24	<b>boards (2)</b>	<b>Capital (12)</b>
<b>Act (1)</b>	4:25;11:19	<b>eyes (1)</b>	33:4,10	12:17,25;13:13,25;
12:23	<b>applications (1)</b>	37:25	<b>boat (1)</b>	14:13;15:9,25;20:3,
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8:2;20:22	<b>appointment (1)</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>boats (1)</b>	<b>care (1)</b>
<b>active (1)</b>	25:2		29:20	15:5
23:6	<b>appreciate (1)</b>	<b>back (11)</b>	<b>Bonds (22)</b>	<b>carried (1)</b>
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24:4	<b>appropriate (2)</b>	8:10;19:1,11;22:16;	16,18;7:8,9,11,13;	<b>carries (4)</b>
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<b>add (2)</b>	<b>approve (8)</b>	<b>balanced (4)</b>	5:2,4,17;6:8;10:3	23:18
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