

In The Matter Of:
*Before the Calumet Township
Board of Trustees*

*February 22, 2021
Regular Meeting*

BOSS REPORTERS
*Gary * Merrillville * Valparaiso, Indiana
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3 COUNTY OF LAKE)
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5 BEFORE THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP
6 BOARD OF TRUSTEES
7 GARY, INDIANA

8 REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had at the meeting
9 before the Calumet Township Board of Trustees,
10 reported by Beth A. Barnette, CSR and Notary Public,
11 Illinois License No. 084-004727, at the Calumet
12 Township Trustee Building, 610 Connecticut Street,
13 Gary, Indiana, on the 22nd day of February, 2021, at
14 6:00 o'clock in the evening.
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APPEARANCES:

- Darren Washington, Board Chairman
- Jacqueline Holmes, Board Member/Secretary
- James Piggee, Board Member
- Sharita Smith, Chief Deputy
- Kimberly Robinson, Township Trustee
- Toyka Cunningham, Acting Executive Secretary
- Daryl Jones, Board Attorney
- Rinzer Williams, III, Township Attorney
- Trista Hudson, Financial Manager

and

Members of the Public

* * *

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1 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Good
2 evening, everybody. Welcome to the Calumet
3 Township Board meeting. Can we stand for the
4 Pledge of Allegiance.

5 (Pledge of Allegiance recited.)

6 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Thank you.
7 Can we have roll call this evening,
8 Ms. Cunningham? How are you?

9 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Great, thank you.
10 Mr. Piggee?

11 MR. PIGGEE: Present.

12 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Ms. Holmes?

13 MS. HOLMES: Here.

14 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Washington?

15 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Here.

16 MS. CUNNINGHAM: With three here,
17 we have enough for a quorum.

18 We go to Item No. 3, Approval of
19 the Minutes from January 5. The Chair makes a
20 motion for the approval of the minutes from
21 January 5, 2021. Is there a second?

22 MS. HOLMES: I'll second.

23 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Is there a
24 discussion by any Board members? Hearing
25 none. Ms. Cunningham, roll call, please.

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MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Piggee?

MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

MS. CUNNINGHAM: Ms. Holmes?

MS. HOLMES: Yes.

MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Washington?

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

Item No. 4, Resolution 2021-03,
Amendment to Resolution 2020-09, the 2021
Salary Resolution. Is there a motion on the
floor for this? Before we do that, excuse me,
Ms. Robinson, if would you like to explain the
resolution?

MS. ROBINSON: Yes.

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Sorry about
that, go ahead.

MS. ROBINSON: Mr. Dawson was
unavailable today due to the scheduling
change. So I would just like to say we have
put this motion forth, which is because two
years, I understand, does not seem long, but
two years, if we did two years, all of the
employees, including the Board, would be
covered. If we went more than two years, that
would not include Board members, as we were
trying to also add them to a longevity pay.

1 \$1200 would be the same amount
2 that we have for everyone; as mentioned in
3 previous conversations, by yourself as well,
4 Mr. President, that we give everyone the same
5 amount. And then it is done, as longevity has
6 never been done here, but it is just our
7 effort to promote the morale and to show our
8 appreciation for the great job that our staff
9 and us, the elected officials, do on a
10 day-to-day, 24 hours, seven days a week,
11 especially during these unprecedented times.

12 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Any comments
13 by Board members?

14 MR. PIGGEE: I would like to also
15 hear Ms. Smith comment on this raise. It
16 doesn't have to be long, just very simple, how
17 it's going to be done, and these types of
18 things. That's what I want to know.

19 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: I'll tell
20 you what, Ms. Smith, let me do this first,
21 let's make a motion first and second the
22 motion, and then we'll open it up for
23 discussion and then questions about the
24 resolution can be handled.

25 So is there a motion for the

1 approval of this resolution?

2 MR. PIGGEE: Yes. So moved.

3 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. And
4 the resolution needs to be retroactive for
5 today because it has 2-15 on there. Is there
6 a second?

7 MS. HOLMES: I second.

8 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Discussion?
9 All right, Ms. Smith.

10 MS. SMITH: Okay. When the
11 program was put together, we took a look at
12 what the county is doing and what other
13 companies have been doing as well in terms of
14 offering longevity pay to their staff. It's
15 not always possible to give raises to
16 individuals. So this is a way to because of
17 them sticking through and being here,
18 especially as the trustee said, during these
19 unprecedented times, working over, working
20 around the clock, you know, coming in during
21 times where a lot of companies have had to
22 shut down. The staff hasn't complained.
23 They've worked above and beyond to make sure
24 that the clients and people that are in need
25 get what they need.

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1 So in looking at different
2 programs that were out there, there were some
3 that set a stipulation of a monthly amount
4 that could be given, and so the decided upon
5 amount is that it would be \$100 per month, so
6 as not to exceed \$1200. We also took a look
7 at the years of service for the staff, and
8 everyone that is part of our staff right now
9 that is eligible has, at a minimum, the two
10 years.

11 So it wasn't excluding anyone. It
12 also wasn't taking a look at a person's
13 position. It didn't matter what your position
14 is, because all of our employees are valuable
15 to the staff and everyone contributes in their
16 own way to help the trustee and to help this
17 run the way its been running under her
18 administration, like a well-oiled machine.

19 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay.

20 MS. SMITH: One more thing. The
21 \$100 is paid out at the end of the year. It's
22 paid out the last paycheck of the year. But
23 let's say you got another opportunity and you
24 decided to leave, you would still receive
25 credit for however many months you worked. So

1 if you left in June, you would still receive
2 \$600, because you had been accruing it each
3 month that you had been working.

4 MR. PIGGEE: I've got a question
5 for her, Mr. President.

6 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Let me ask a
7 question real quick based on the presentation.
8 So you're saying that if a person that's here
9 two years and six months, at the end of the
10 year they would get \$600 because the \$100
11 starts after they've been here two years.

12 MS. SMITH: You have to have
13 completed two years of service in order to be
14 eligible. But this program, since it's just
15 starting in 2021, it's starting as of January.
16 So if you stay until June, yes, you will
17 receive a check for \$600 because you were here
18 from January through June, and it's \$100 per
19 month.

20 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: And that is
21 if you already have that two years.

22 MS. SMITH: Yes. As I stated
23 before, all of our employees have two years.

24 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay.

25 MR. PIGGEE: Mr. President?

1 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Mr. Piggee.

2 MR. PIGGEE: Ms. Smith, suppose
3 you just recently hired somebody. They won't
4 get the \$1200, but they would get the minimum.

5 MS. SMITH: No, because they don't
6 have two years.

7 MR. PIGGEE: Okay. Because the
8 reason I ask that question, last year people
9 got the minimum.

10 MS. SMITH: But that was a totally
11 different thing. What we received last year
12 at the end of the year, that was like a
13 bonus-type pay. It was a one-shot deal.
14 Elected officials were not eligible for it and
15 everybody received the same \$800.

16 MR. PIGGEE: Okay.

17 MS. ROBINSON: And we told you at
18 that time we would be working towards crafting
19 a resolution that would give us longevity that
20 could go throughout our term for our time
21 here.

22 MR. PIGGEE: Okay. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Any
24 questions, Ms. Holmes?

25 MS. HOLMES: No. These employees

1 are on the sidelines and I think are
2 well-deserved of that bonus.

3 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All right.
4 I'm going to give you my opinion. I'm going
5 to be voting no on this resolution tonight.
6 The reason why I'm voting no is because I
7 believe this resolution should not have
8 anybody that's an elected official. No
9 disrespect to Mr. Piggee, Ms. Holmes, and
10 Ms. Robinson. Especially to us as Board
11 members. It's public knowledge we make
12 \$25,000 a year and we have maybe four to six
13 meetings a year. I cannot -- as these fine
14 people have been here for years and worked, I
15 agree with the resolution to provide the pay
16 for them at the end of the year. I have no
17 problem with that. But Ms. Robinson, myself,
18 Ms. Holmes, and you, we make a considerable
19 amount of money and taking \$1200 at the end of
20 the year for the little meetings that we have,
21 and if you divide the meetings that we have
22 and what we get paid, I cannot accept that.
23 And again, I don't have a problem in reworking
24 this resolution and taking the elected
25 officials out and distributing it to its

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1 employees, but I will not be voting for this
2 resolution as is. For me to take \$1200 from
3 the Trustee's Office, the taxpayers, and I'm
4 already making 25,000, to me, it's not right.

5 So that being said, can we have a
6 roll call? Is there any questions based on
7 what I said; if not, can we have a roll call.

8 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Piggee?

9 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

10 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Ms. Holmes?

11 MS. HOLMES: Yes.

12 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Washington?

13 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: No. With
14 two yeses, one no, the motion carries.

15 Item No. 5, Resolution 2021-04,
16 Authorizing a Temporary loan from the Rainy
17 Day Fund to the Civil Township Fund. Madam
18 Trustee?

19 MS. ROBINSON: Yes. So the Rainy
20 Day loan of \$500,000 operating cash to the
21 General Fund, this must be paid back by the
22 end of the year or in the event that we have
23 an emergency declaration by the Board or it
24 will be carried over until June of 2022. Each
25 year, you know, we borrow money from the Rainy

1 Day, and the amount borrowed that we have been
2 borrowing has lessened year by year as we have
3 improved our reserves. And we, of course,
4 would much rather borrow from ourselves than a
5 bond, bank, or anyone else. So the declining
6 amount each year of the loan is a testament to
7 the improvement of our financial picture, our
8 financial record.

9 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Any
10 questions by Board members?

11 MS. HOLMES: I have none.

12 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. The
13 Chair makes a motion for the approval of
14 Resolution 2021-04, authorizing a temporary
15 loan from the Rainy Day Fund to the Civil
16 Township Fund. Is there a second?

17 MS. HOLMES: I second.

18 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: There is a
19 second by Ms. Holmes. Ms. Cunningham, could
20 you please give us a roll call.

21 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Piggee?

22 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

23 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Ms. Holmes?

24 MS. HOLMES: Yes.

25 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Washington?

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1 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes. With
2 three yeas, zero nays, the motion carries.

3 Item No. 6, Resolution 2021-05,
4 Adoption of a Capital Improvement Plan for the
5 Years 2022 through 2024. Madam Trustee?

6 MS. ROBINSON: So most of you are
7 familiar with this as this has come to us.
8 We're not really sure if we even have to adopt
9 the plan, but we're just asking to do so just
10 in case, you know, the General Assembly is
11 always kind of off center when it comes to Cal
12 Township and the bills downstate are always
13 attempting to take away our cash reserves or
14 punish us for being good stewards. So we're
15 going to do it. Some of the townships are
16 definitely required to adopt the capital
17 plans, but we really don't have to unless the
18 law changes, and it may be something closer --
19 or something more so next year that causes us
20 to move the reserves once Griffith is over in
21 with North Township.

22 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Any
23 questions? I'm sorry.

24 MS. ROBINSON: No, go ahead.

25 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Any

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1 questions by Board members? Hearing none.
2 The Chair makes a motion for the approval of
3 Resolution 2021-05, adoption of a Capital
4 Improvement Plan for the years of 2022-2024,
5 retroactive to tonight. Is there a second?

6 MS. HOLMES: I second.

7 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: There is a
8 second by Ms. Holmes. May we have a roll
9 call, Ms. Cunningham?

10 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Piggee?

11 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

12 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Ms. Holmes?

13 MS. HOLMES: Yes.

14 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Washington?

15 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes. With
16 three yeas, zero nays, the motion carries.

17 Item No. 7, Resolution 2021-06,
18 Affirmation of the 2020 Annual Report. Madam
19 Trustee?

20 MS. ROBINSON: Yes. So each year,
21 again, the Board is asked to review and affirm
22 the annual report. Once again, we had yet
23 another solid financial year, even with the
24 global pandemic and the other economic effects
25 of 2020. You're welcome to inquire about any

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1 expense, but every fund was positive balance
2 and even underbudget. So, yay us.

3 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Any
4 questions by Board members?

5 MR. PIGGEE: Ms. Robinson, that
6 means we don't have to make any loans, or
7 anything, this year; right?

8 MS. ROBINSON: No, that's not what
9 that means.

10 MR. PIGGEE: What does it mean?

11 MS. ROBINSON: We already just did
12 a temporary loan to ourselves from our Rainy
13 Day Fund to ourselves. This is only your
14 annual report that is in your packet that we
15 have to submit every year. It's already on
16 its way and gone. So anybody is free to see
17 it. If they choose to, they can get a copy
18 from us or they can go on Gateway and see it.
19 But it just tells the year -- it's like a
20 snapshot of the year, what we spent money and
21 how we spent money, and we have to submit that
22 to the Board.

23 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Any
24 questions?

25 MR. PIGGEE: No.

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CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: You good?

MR. PIGGEE: I'm good.

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All right.

May we have a roll call, Ms. Cunningham?

MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Piggee?

MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

MS. CUNNINGHAM: Ms. Holmes?

MS. HOLMES: Yes.

MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Washington?

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes. And also, that is retroactive for today, for tonight, with all the resolutions that have passed. Let me say that for the record.

ATTORNEY WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair?

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

ATTORNEY WILLIAMS: For the record, it's retroactive back to February 15.

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: February 15, thank you. At this time do we have any comments by the public? If so, you can come to the mike.

MS. BACKUS: I have something to say. Good evening, everyone.

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: State your name for the record.

1 MS. BACKUS: My name is Kimberly
2 Backus, and I'm an employee here, Calumet
3 Township Trustee, and have been for 20 plus
4 years, and it has been an honor to work with
5 the staff and administration. I had the
6 pleasure of working at the shelter the day we
7 had the bad snow, and it's amazing to actually
8 see people in the shelter have to go shelter
9 to shelter and to be able to help out.

10 I appreciate being part of the
11 staff and the people that we work with and
12 just giving trustees -- just working with the
13 people and helping out with the clothing,
14 food, whatever she had to do, her and
15 Ms. Smith. It has been a pleasure to work
16 here and continue to be able to work here. So
17 I hope everybody can come together and just
18 get different things resolved for employees
19 and just for the public. So, thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Thank you.
21 Anymore comments by the public? Hearing none.
22 Madam Trustee?

23 MS. ROBINSON: Yes, thank you,
24 Mr. Chair. So what we have also been working
25 on on top of the sheltering is House Bill

1 1476, and that was trying to authorize the
2 city or towns that hold 70 percent or more of
3 the township's population to essentially annex
4 without representation the entire township.
5 Take all assets, transfer township assistance
6 to a nonprofit, and totally eliminate the
7 township. All of this with no input or vote
8 from the township.

9 So we were online for two weeks.
10 We have been calling and asking support of our
11 local legislative team, in which
12 Representative Hatcher and Representative
13 Harris sat on the committee, and they were
14 very helpful to us in testimony that led them
15 to believe or understand that every township
16 is not the same. One size does not fit all.
17 It was Representative Engleman -- I'm not sure
18 where she was from, but she got up and she
19 said, well, they just clean up cemeteries and
20 they just have fire protection.

21 And Representative Bartley from
22 Indianapolis reminded her of how many times,
23 you know, we've gone through this and trying
24 to get rid of township government. And she
25 was like, well, all it takes is a clerk, you

1 know, to do the job. And Ms. Backus
2 mentioning that, I was so wanting to take
3 pictures of our shelter all last week, all the
4 week before, because we have been working with
5 the City of Gary during this frigid weather
6 and trying to keep people safe.

7 So needless to say, it was a
8 valiant effort put forward by the ITA as well,
9 because it represented a few more of them this
10 time and not just Calumet. So they came back,
11 because it was a snowy day, the first week and
12 then they came back the following week after
13 the holiday, that Tuesday, and they were
14 expecting to take a vote and it was dead. The
15 chairman announced that he was holding the
16 bill and so it didn't even come out of
17 committee, for now.

18 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Right.

19 MS. ROBINSON: So we are now just
20 waiting, kind of trying to get ourselves in
21 front of it, rather than find ourselves always
22 behind it, but I just had to mention that.
23 Then Mr. Coach Piggee, do you know or do any
24 of you know of anyone -- we have gift
25 certificates for parents, now that school has

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1 restarted, to go to our vendor at This Is It.
2 It's \$150 per child to get uniforms, we hope
3 they'll get underwear and socks, because we
4 did get some calls and complaints from
5 educators and parents who have said since they
6 have been off work, they have not, you know,
7 had to buy, but they really don't have any
8 money to buy. So they just need to come here
9 or call the office and we just have a short
10 COVID '21 application for them to file and
11 fill out and we'll give them the gift
12 certificate. They must show their I.D., and
13 everything, when they go to the store at This
14 Is It, and they can get uniforms and the other
15 necessities, like I said, underwear and socks.
16 Because at Christmas we bought 100 \$100 gift
17 certificates that we gave out for COVID and,
18 again, they could get underwear socks and
19 boots. And now they can get -- yes, sir?

20 MR. PIGGEE: School started today.
21 They went into the building.

22 MS. ROBINSON: Some of them.

23 MR. PIGGEE: Some of them. Did
24 you make the principals and the --

25 MS. ROBINSON: We were working --

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1 this started because we were working with Lea
2 Hogan who gave us a call from Banneker, I
3 believe she said.

4 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

5 MS. ROBINSON: But Ms. Robinson,
6 my sister who's also at Williams, who we share
7 the information with their school, as we
8 usually do with Ms. Henfield at the girl's
9 school.

10 MR. PIGGEE: What about --

11 MS. ROBINSON: Right, so --

12 MR. PIGGEE: (Inaudible.)

13 MS. ROBINSON: Well, you know, if
14 we don't have a representative that we know,
15 we tell -- Ms. Hogan initially asked for 70
16 applications. We gave her 100 and she said
17 she was going to share within the principal's
18 chat. So, I mean, we still have them.

19 MR. PIGGEE: That's total, a
20 hundred total.

21 MS. ROBINSON: No, we bought --
22 yeah, we bought a hundred, but that's only for
23 people like in a quick, fast emergency need.
24 Anybody is welcome to do an application, and
25 that's for a family if you have three children

1 or less, you can get that right away, but if
2 you're over three children, we just ask you to
3 complete the full application and you'll still
4 get the same amount.

5 MR. PIGGEE: Okay.

6 MS. ROBINSON: Then we, as we
7 mentioned, we were -- we're a warming center,
8 we're a cooling center, warming center
9 everyday at the Multipurpose Center, 1900 West
10 41st Avenue, but because the City of Gary --
11 we do this in conjunction with the City of
12 Gary, and so they decided to change the
13 Ambridge Mann Center into an actual overnight.
14 So when the weather is 32 and below, the
15 people are able to spend the night there at
16 the Ambridge Mann Center, sleep on cots from
17 7:00 a.m. until -- no, they have to be there
18 from -- they have to be in there by 10:00 p.m.
19 until 7:00 a.m. and they come out and then
20 they come to us.

21 They can either catch the bus,
22 because the whole setup with the Gary Police
23 Department, with Gary Public Transportation,
24 they catch the bus out to the Multipurpose
25 Center and they stay there from 8:00 to 4:00.

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1 Some of them have been getting dropped off at
2 7:00. So we've had like an increase of
3 like -- when we did Christmas Eve and
4 Christmas day, we had no one except each
5 other, and so I think one guy, or a tester
6 from Marram, went back and said, hey, you guys
7 don't know about the Multipurpose Center? So
8 all of a sudden we started, but this past week
9 we were packed between eight up to ten people.
10 I'm looking at Ms. Scott and Ms. Hunter, who
11 is the Multipurpose manager, and so we've been
12 open from 8:00 to 4:00.

13 We have provided shelter, food,
14 breakfast, lunch, dinner, personal hygiene
15 items, blankets, and available clothing from
16 the Kim's Closet in the back there, and then
17 we've also had them watch television, had some
18 spirited conversation. They brought cards and
19 we did puzzles, and Edgewater did come out to
20 do evaluations and Marram was always there to
21 test every day. This week I just got a text
22 earlier today and an E-mail, and I sent it to
23 Ms. Hunter, that because the weather -- we
24 just had our disinfecting today. So because
25 the weather is supposed to be relatively above

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1 32, we're just going to let our center rest
2 and just, you know, kind of air out until we
3 begin this again.

4 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Is Gary PD
5 helping you out with security, or anything
6 like that?

7 MS. ROBINSON: No, no. We have
8 our own security, you know, our regular
9 security that we have there daily and they --

10 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: What about
11 overnight?

12 MS. ROBINSON: We don't do
13 overnight. They have overnight security
14 there. They have a security guard and the
15 tester. We had considered it, but just seeing
16 the people -- because we've also been doing
17 our own intake and assessment trying to get
18 them to understand that the Township has
19 resources, but they're just like, okay, not
20 really, not for me. And so I also got a list
21 today of about five of them who have been
22 banned because, you know, they can't follow
23 the rules. They sign a customer contract with
24 the City and we also have rules as well. So
25 it's just -- I think we probably have about

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1 two more weeks of this kind of maybe frigid
2 weather, I'm hoping, you know, praying, and so
3 that we can get back to our normal activities.

4 So we do have two interns that we
5 just brought in. One is here tonight. I
6 think he's been introduced to everyone, if
7 he'd like to introduce himself, and with his
8 finance background he has been placed in the
9 finance department with Ms. Miller and staff,
10 and the other one has been placed in the IT
11 department, and they're just for now doing 20
12 hours a week just to see if this is something
13 they might want to be involved in or, you
14 know, call it a career. I think that is it.
15 Yes. Any questions?

16 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: No, just a
17 statement. I agree with not doing overnight
18 and having security there during the day
19 because I just want to make sure that staff is
20 safe and that we don't have people that may
21 have mental health issues or substance abuse
22 issues and something breaks off. I also want
23 to ask the two young ladies that's there, did
24 you want to make a comment, let us know your
25 opinion on how things are going there? We got

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1 a report from the trustee describing all
2 that's going on, but I know you raised your
3 hand. So if you would like to say something,
4 that's fine, if you'd like to say something
5 about how things are going over there. You're
6 doing a fantastic job. Give them a round of
7 applause.

8 (Applause by all.)

9 MS. HUNTER: It's very enjoyable
10 working and helping people. It just gets
11 taxing at times, but I treat everyone as
12 though they were my loved ones, you know. We
13 could be -- miss a couple weeks or we could be
14 homeless also. So I do have a very good
15 staff, very patient and caring, and I
16 appreciate that from my staff. We all work
17 together and we get the job done. So I'm very
18 thankful that the trustee is allowing us to
19 assist.

20 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Thank you.

21 MS. SCOTT: Yeah, I just want to
22 say -- I'm Severia Scott and I work at NPC.
23 Basically, I want to say how I am so proud of
24 my trustee on how she goes above and beyond.
25 Like in my opinion, she didn't have to take

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1 responsibility with the City to help out with
2 it because at this time our shelter was not
3 open. However, when they knew they needed
4 help, she didn't hesitate to give help, and
5 Ms. Hunter and our staff, we didn't hesitate
6 to help the people because it's just a good
7 feeling, and in my opinion, that's what the
8 Township is about, help the community.

9 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Absolutely.

10 (Applause by all.)

11 MR. PIGGEE: Mr. President?

12 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

13 MR. PIGGEE: Ms. Trustee?

14 MS. ROBINSON: Yes.

15 MR. PIGGEE: I'm really proud of
16 you when it comes down to helping these young
17 people --

18 MS. ROBINSON: Thank you.

19 MR. PIGGEE: -- get their uniforms
20 from This Is It, because I know when I was an
21 administrator in the school system, they were
22 very helpful in terms of helping these young
23 people because everybody, like right now, just
24 don't have the money, and these types of
25 things. So I'm really proud of you and your

1 staff for doing those types of things, but I
2 really wish you would contact all of the
3 elementary schools, please.

4 MS. ROBINSON: Okay. I will let
5 you know, Mr. Piggee, that this is not new for
6 us, that all of the school systems, including
7 Lake Ridge because that is Calumet Township,
8 Gary Community, they know about this.

9 MR. PIGGEE: Okay.

10 MS. ROBINSON: So they are aware.

11 MR. PIGGEE: Well, remind them
12 because --

13 MS. ROBINSON: You're on the
14 school board. Can't you remind them?

15 MR. PIGGEE: I sure will.

16 MS. ROBINSON: What I want to say
17 also is that this is a good time actually
18 because, historically, this time of the year
19 is when we are slow because people are
20 beginning to get income tax and they don't
21 really need us. So, you know, we're still not
22 seeing people on site, but we have them come
23 down and sign for their paperwork and case
24 managers are doing everything via telephone,
25 and so it's a good time, if you know some

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1 people, we're here 8:00 to 4:00, Monday
2 through Thursday. We're here.

3 MR. PIGGEE: Okay.

4 MS. ROBINSON: Okay?

5 MR. PIGGEE: All right.

6 MS. ROBINSON: 8:00 to 4:00,
7 Monday through Friday at the NPC. Okay?

8 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. Board
9 comments? Mr. Piggee, did you have something?

10 MR. PIGGEE: Yes, I do. Everybody
11 is aware of the Martin Luther King Day and how
12 it got started. City Hall and a Gary person
13 started Martin Luther King Day, and every year
14 she used to have her daughter, who's deceased,
15 for her daughter an event every year at the
16 Genesis Center, but because of this virus and
17 everything that's going on, it has been moved
18 to Indianapolis at the Statehouse. It's on
19 April 9th at 2:00 o'clock their time, 1:00
20 o'clock our time. And so --

21 MS. ROBINSON: We'll make you
22 copies. I'm just showing the flyer.

23 MR. PIGGEE: She has the flyer.
24 The governor will be presenting because he
25 gave the memorial award to Katie Hall. 19th

1 and Madison is where she lived at, and he will
2 be receiving the Katie Hall award. So, any
3 questions for me?

4 (No immediate response.)

5 MR. PIGGEE: Okay. They can only
6 hold, you know, with all of this going on, 100
7 people and they can bring a person with them.
8 So that's April the 9th, the Friday after Good
9 Friday. Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Ms. Holmes?

11 MS. HOLMES: I'm off this Friday
12 coming up, so if you need any volunteers, I'm
13 volunteering myself.

14 MS. ROBINSON: Thank you.

15 MS. HOLMES: Just letting you
16 know.

17 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: The work
18 continues. You're doing a great job that
19 you're doing. I'm really proud of you being
20 on the frontline, and a lot of people don't
21 really understand what you're doing. So when
22 I see legislatures from the country, they come
23 down to the General Assembly and they make
24 those comments, that's because their trustee
25 office has about three people in the office

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1 and they work with ten people and that's
2 literally what they do. They part ways and
3 they think the entire county is that way.

4 I'm thankful that the trustee is
5 working with our legislatures to get that
6 heard, because I'm surprised -- Hal Slater is
7 up to something and we got to keep watching
8 him toward the end of the session because they
9 try to sneak things in through him. So thank
10 you for kind of watching that and making sure
11 they don't try anything. So with that said,
12 thank you, happy holidays, Happy New Year to
13 you all. Continue to be blessed and continue
14 to do the good work.

15 The Chair would like to make a
16 motion for adjournment. Is there a second?

17 MR. PIGGEE: Second.

18 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: There is a
19 second by Mr. Piggee. The meeting is now
20 over.

21 (Proceedings concluded at
22 6:33 p.m.)

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