

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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THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP FINANCE MEETING

GARY, INDIANA

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had at the meeting
before the Local Board of Finance, 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 6:20 p.m. in the
evening.

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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

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)
) SS:
 2 COUNTY OF LAKE)

3 THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP FINANCE MEETING
 4 GARY, INDIANA

7 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

8
 9 I, KRISTEN K. STOKES, CSR, Notary Public in
 10 and for the County of Lake, State of Indiana, do
 11 hereby certify that I reported in machine shorthand
 12 the foregoing proceedings had in the above-entitled
 13 matter, at the time and place herein set forth; and
 14 I do further certify that the foregoing transcript,
 15 is a true and correct transcript of my said
 16 stenographic notes.

17
 18 Signed this 11th day of January, 2021.

19
 20 

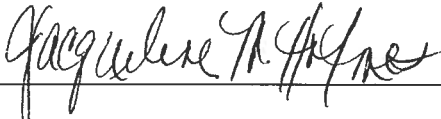
21 _____
 22 KRISTEN K. STOKES, CSR
 CSR# 084-003723

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

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

4 THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP FINANCE MEETING
5 GARY, INDIANA

6
7 These minutes of the Calumet Township Board
8 of Local Finance meeting held on January 5, 2021,
9 were approved by the Board of Trustees on the 22
10 day of February, 2021.

11
12
13
14 
15 _____
16 Jacqueline Holmes, Board Secretary

17
18 
19 _____
20 James Piggee, Board Member

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