

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

*October 19, 2020
REGULAR MEETING*

*BOSS REPORTERS
Gary * Merrillville * Valparaiso, Indiana
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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 October 19,
2020, scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. in the
evening.

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1 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: -- for the
2 September 21st, 2020 meeting. Is there a
3 second?

4 MS. HOLMES: I second it.

5 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: It's approved and
6 seconded. Roll call?

7 MS. BONDS: Mr. Piggee?

8 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

9 MS. BONDS: Ms. Holmes?

10 MS. HOLMES: Yes.

11 MS. BONDS: Mr. Washington?

12 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

13 With three yeas, the approval of the
14 minutes for September 21st has passed.

15 Item No. 3, Resolution No. 2019-05,
16 amendment to the 2020 salary budget.

17 Madam Trustee?

18 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: This is an amendment
19 that we are making to the salary budget due
20 to the fact that, once again, I am trying to
21 help my employees as we navigate our way
22 through this difficult and most different
23 time. And initially, the conversation came
24 up is that we were trying to see how we
25 could give longevity pay, like they do sort

1 of in the county, and we just didn't have
2 enough time.

3 So in speaking with Mr. Dalton, we were
4 able to provide, granting the board
5 approves, a -- what we would consider a
6 bonus pay for this year. And it has to be
7 taxed. So we would go between \$500 and
8 \$1,000, and it would be based on basically
9 the longevity of the person and the
10 department or the positioning, whether it's
11 manager or general service worker. It's
12 just something that I think I can do on
13 behalf of our office and administration.

14 I can't get anything as the elected
15 official. You guys can't get anything as
16 elected officials. I'm sorry. But when you
17 do that -- and we are just going to -- if
18 you guys say okay, because I read -- this
19 started also where I saw that 1.3 percent of
20 a raise was going to be given to Social
21 Security recipients. So I just said -- I
22 saw that in the news. And I said, let me
23 see what I can do for the staff or -- you
24 know, they have been most helpful, most
25 diligent in their work throughout

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1 everything. We've been able to stay well --
2 knock on wood -- and still come to work
3 every day and do what we do for our
4 constituents. So it's just something I
5 wanted to do.

6 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Mr. Dalton, do you
7 have anything?

8 MR. DALTON: I can only add, Mr. Chair,
9 this is not an additional appropriation.
10 This is not dollars that will be spent
11 beyond the budget that you've already
12 approved. These will be dollars spent
13 within the budget, transferred from existing
14 lines where savings have been created this
15 year.

16 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Any questions by
17 board members?

18 MR. PIGGEE: Yes, I have a question.

19 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Mr. Piggee.

20 MR. PIGGEE: Tell me this: What
21 precipitates a person receiving a bonus? Is
22 there a criteria? Is there that type of
23 thing to receive a bonus?

24 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Employment.
25 Employment. And just that you have worked

1 here for at least 6 years that I've been
2 here and you are either in management or,
3 you know, supervisory underneath, you know.
4 Just that depends on the amount, but no one
5 will receive over \$1,000, and no one will
6 receive less than \$500, and it has to be
7 taxed, so they may not get the complete
8 \$500. That's why we made the range, so then
9 you'll get something, you know.

10 MR. PIGGEE: Okay. Since our attorney
11 is not an elected official, would she be
12 able to receive it?

13 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: No, because she's on
14 contract.

15 MR. PIGGEE: Oh, okay.

16 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: It's for those
17 employees that are on the salary ordinance
18 that needs to be passed.

19 MR. PIGGEE: Okay. Thank you.

20 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Thank you.

21 MS. HOLMES: No questions.

22 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. I've got a
23 few questions. What I'm looking at before
24 me is a resolution, and I like the fact that
25 you have on here a Covid-19 hazardous bonus.

1 That was not articulated. So are we still
2 keeping with the hazardous bonus for the
3 Covid-19? Because if that's the case, we
4 need to say that. So is that -- that's the
5 first question. Are we keeping with this
6 Covid-19 hazardous bonus?

7 MR. DALTON: You're looking at me, and I
8 did help draft this document.

9 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes, that's what it
10 would be, if I misspoke, yes.

11 MR. DALTON: That was an important part
12 of the conversation.

13 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes.

14 MR. DALTON: Many communities are
15 providing hazard pay bonuses to staff that
16 worked during this tumultuous year. That
17 was the concept here.

18 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. And I'm
19 glad you said that because the Covid-19 is
20 very, very tedious. And people -- we don't
21 know what people's situation is, but we know
22 anything can help.

23 Now, I'm with, actually, Mr. Piggee
24 again. Since this is a hazardous Covid-19
25 bonus, I guess I want a little bit more

1 clarification on how it will be determined
2 because you have people that have worked
3 here longer than you've been the Trustee.
4 So I'm trying to figure out what is going
5 to be the metric put in place to make sure
6 that -- because when I look at a Covid-19,
7 I'm looking -- I'll be honest with you, I'm
8 looking at everybody getting the same thing.

9 So when it comes to trying to
10 differentiate between who gets five, six or
11 a thousand, I want to make sure that if it's
12 a Covid-19, which I agree with, that
13 everybody gets the same thing. So if --
14 what metric is going to be used? Because I
15 know there are people that have been here
16 longer. I know that there are people here
17 that make more than others.

18 And looking at some of the stimulus
19 packages based on what our President did, a
20 lot of people were not even eligible for
21 that. I think it's a great thing, but I
22 just want to make sure, since we have to
23 approve this, that it's something fair
24 across the board for everybody.

25 So I want you all to understand I'm for

1 it, and I think it should be a Covid-19, but
2 I just want to make sure that every -- how
3 it's going to be implemented.

4 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: It's going to be
5 implemented, again, based on -- everyone who
6 is here is going to get an amount. Now, I
7 think we really put the amount in there
8 because we had like the lines of management.

9 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay.

10 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: We have eight
11 managers. They would probably get, because
12 of more work that they do and more
13 responsibilities that they have. And anyone
14 else just on the baseline entry level will
15 at least get the 500.

16 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay.

17 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I can give you a
18 breakdown of employment. I can give you a
19 work chart and show you what we had in mind.

20 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay.

21 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Or if you want to
22 amend it to say that everybody gets \$800, if
23 that's a fair in-between, we can do it that
24 way. It's just however we can get it
25 passed.

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1 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: You all tell me
2 what would be the fair thing because, again,
3 I'm not the one to say who's doing more than
4 somebody else. Because what I believe is
5 that somebody in their job responsibility,
6 whether they just be an hourly employment
7 and not management, it doesn't say that that
8 person works just as hard fulfilling their
9 duties than somebody who's the manager.

10 MR. PIGGEE: Exactly.

11 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: And so if we have
12 the money to say 800 and everybody gets it,
13 then let everybody get 800. I just have a
14 problem with -- and I'm not saying this is
15 going to happen -- but because somebody's
16 classification is less and they're not in
17 management, they may get less than somebody
18 because of the perception that because
19 they're a manager, they work harder than the
20 janitor who works just as hard.

21 So we're going to pass this tonight. I
22 just want us to come to some kind of number
23 that is fair and equitable for everybody to
24 get that, Steve, won't mess with our budget,
25 that's in the lines of our budget.

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1 ATTORNEY WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair?

2 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes, sir.

3 ATTORNEY WILLIAMS: Attorney Rinzer.

4 Yes, if I may, Madam Trustee, we'd like to
5 amend the amendment as presented. I will
6 read for the record, and we will reproduce
7 later.

8 We're only amending the third section
9 to read as follows: "Be it resolved that
10 the Calumet Township Board, Lake County,
11 Indiana, for the 2020 salary resolution be
12 amended to provide Covid-19 hazard bonuses
13 to be paid to all employees of the Township
14 in the amount of \$800. Further, no elected
15 officials will be eligible for the bonus."

16 That is the amendment that we would
17 like to present that would, of course, have
18 to be accepted by the board.

19 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: There's a motion
20 on the table for Resolution 2019-05 where
21 the Calumet Township Board approves the
22 amendment to the salary budget. And
23 whereas, at this time there was no way of
24 knowing that within the future months that
25 there would be a global pandemic that would

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1 affect all township operations and
2 facilities. Be it resolved by the Calumet
3 Township Board of Lake County, Indiana, that
4 the 2020 salary resolution be amended to
5 provide a Covid-19 hazard bonus to be paid
6 to all employees of the Township in the
7 amount of \$800.

8 ATTORNEY WILLIAMS: Period.

9 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Well, of \$800,
10 period. All the rest we can scratch out.

11 ATTORNEY WILLIAMS: Right.

12 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All right. That's
13 the motion. Is there a second?

14 ATTORNEY WILLIAMS: And just to be
15 clear, just the remaining of that section
16 you will scratch out. We're going to keep
17 the language, "Further, no elected officials
18 will be eligible for the bonus."

19 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes, that's right.
20 Let me add to that. "Further, no elected
21 officials will be eligible for the bonus."
22 Is there a second?

23 MS. HOLMES: I second.

24 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All right.
25 There's a second.

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1 Any discussion by board members?

2 MR. PIGGEE: Mr. Chair, I think it's
3 very fair that all of them get an equal
4 amount of \$800. I think that's very fair.

5 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Ms. Holmes, do you
6 have any questions?

7 MS. HOLMES: No. Where I work at we do
8 it by seniority.

9 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Huh?

10 MS. HOLMES: I said, where I work at, my
11 other job, we go by seniority, but this is
12 fine. I agree.

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. With three
20 yeas, the amendment passes, Resolution
21 2019-05, amending the 2020 salary budget.

22 MR. PIGGEE: Mr. Chair, may I?

23 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

24 MR. PIGGEE: Madam Trustee, how soon
25 will they get this bonus?

1 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: It will probably be
2 submitted somewhere within the December pay.

3 MR. PIGGEE: Okay. Like a Christmas
4 present.

5 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: You don't get
6 nothing.

7 MR. PIGGEE: I know it.

8 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All right. Item
9 No. 4, Resolution 2020-07, appropriations
10 and tax rates, Budget Form 4.

11 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Mr. Dalton.

12 MR. DALTON: As you might imagine, Items
13 4 and 5 are connected at the hip. Item 4,
14 which is Resolution 2020-7, is your formal
15 approval of the 2021 budget we will ask you
16 to sign if you do adopt it. And Item 5 is
17 Resolution 2020-08, which happens to include
18 a lot more detail.

19 I think it's sometimes frustrating to
20 boards when they don't get much detail in
21 the document they're signing. So the second
22 resolution has the detail that adds up to
23 those same exact numbers, no changes from
24 what we looked at in the public hearing, and
25 those numbers are broken down by fund.

1 You'll notice on Resolution 2020-7 we
2 are only budgeting four funds. We're no
3 longer going to budget the Recreation Fund.
4 It will -- the expenses that used to live in
5 the Recreation Fund are not going away.
6 They are being moved to the Civil -- the
7 Township Civil Fund. So that we have one
8 Civil Fund instead of having what used to be
9 three totally separate funds paying some
10 people and some expenses. Now they'll be
11 tracked in one Township Civil Fund.

12 The four funds that are being budgeted
13 are: The Rainy Day Fund, the General Civil,
14 the Township Assistance Administration and
15 Township Assistance Benefits.

16 And as you know, because we've talked
17 about this in previous years, these levies
18 and tax rates are advertised high. Quite
19 often, when it's all said and done and the
20 calculations are run by the State, they
21 shrink -- the amount of tax rates that we
22 have available to us, according to the
23 statute, they shrink the amount of levy
24 available to us.

25 So when you finally see your adopted

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1 budget published in January by the State, it
2 will probably be a little bit less than this
3 for the levy and tax rate portion. But the
4 budget piece, that's the amount you're
5 allowed to spend, will be these numbers
6 because the only thing the State does is
7 determine if you have enough money. If you
8 have enough money, you can spend it.

9 And I can assure you, you have enough
10 money because you have been building up
11 reserves for the last couple of years and
12 kudos for having done so. So I would ask
13 respectfully, after you have questions, that
14 you adopt both 2020-7 and 2020-8.

15 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Are there any
16 questions right now by any board members
17 regarding Resolution 2020-7 and Resolution
18 2020-8?

19 MS. HOLMES: No.

20 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Mr. Piggee?

21 MR. PIGGEE: No.

22 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All right. Chair
23 makes a motion for the approval of
24 Resolution 2020-07 and Resolution 2020-08.
25 Is there a second?

1 MR. PIGGEE: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: May we have a roll
3 call, Ms. Bonds.

4 MS. BONDS: Mr. Piggee?

5 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

6 MS. BONDS: Ms. Holmes?

7 MS. HOLMES: Yes.

8 MS. BONDS: Mr. Washington?

9 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes. Three
10 yeses --

11 Attorney asked me, and I think I was
12 correct. If I'm wrong -- we already had the
13 public hearing at the last meeting, so we
14 didn't have to do that this time?

15 MR. DALTON: That is correct, Mr. Chair.

16 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: With three yeses
17 and zero nays, the resolution passes.

18 For clarification, where did you put the
19 Recreation? Did you put it in General or
20 eliminate it totally?

21 MR. DALTON: General.

22 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: General. Okay.
23 Thank you.

24 MR. DALTON: Those expenses were rolled
25 into the General Fund.

1 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. The motion
2 passes three/zero.

3 Item No. 6, Resolution 2020-10,
4 temporary loan extension.

5 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Mr. Dalton.

6 MR. DALTON: And my final request of the
7 year, as typically this is our last meeting
8 unless there's an emergency in November and
9 December, is Resolution 2020-10, which is
10 our annual trek through the temporary loan
11 process. You recall that we borrowed money
12 from Rainy Day in February, and we put those
13 dollars into the General Fund to help the
14 General Fund get through the year through
15 its cash curve, because we run low on cash
16 right before the June distribution of
17 property taxes, and we run low in cash again
18 right before the December distribution of
19 property taxes.

20 That fund, by the way, is balanced. So
21 that fund is not spending in deficit. It is
22 balanced. It just doesn't have enough cash
23 to carry all the expenses for six months at
24 a time while it waits for property taxes.

25 We're asking by way of this resolution

1 if you will let us wait again until February
2 to repay that loan. It helps us close the
3 year out, clean books, and then in February
4 repay the loan. And no doubt we'll be back
5 here asking again for another temporary loan
6 for 2021.

7 My current projection is good news, is
8 that that next temporary loan will be
9 smaller again. We are continuing to build
10 up reserves in each fund, so that the
11 eventual goal will be no temporary loans at
12 all, that the General Fund will have enough
13 to get through the whole year without even
14 having to borrow from Rainy Day. I can't
15 promise that next year, but I think it will
16 be smaller than the 700 when we discuss it
17 again in February.

18 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Thank you,
19 Mr. Dalton.

20 MR. PIGGEE: Chair?

21 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

22 MR. PIGGEE: How much do we owe on this
23 temporary loan?

24 MR. DALTON: \$700,000 is what was
25 borrowed.

1 MR. PIGGEE: Okay.

2 MR. DALTON: It was taken from Rainy Day
3 and put into the General Fund. It helps us
4 operate for the year. We will pay back
5 \$700,000, and no interest was paid. We
6 borrowed from ourselves.

7 MR. PIGGEE: Oh, we borrowed.

8 MR. DALTON: We didn't borrow from the
9 bank. We borrowed from ourselves.

10 MR. PIGGEE: Okay.

11 MR. DALTON: So each fund is operated
12 like a little business, and it needs to have
13 its own revenue and its own expenses. And
14 if it starts to dip towards the zero line,
15 it needs to borrow until it gets some more
16 revenue. You're not allowed to end the year
17 with a negative balance. So we need to keep
18 a positive balance, and each year we've been
19 borrowing less and less and less to get
20 through those cash troughs.

21 MR. PIGGEE: So you don't have to be
22 bothered with any interest?

23 MR. DALTON: No interest at all. We're
24 borrowing from ourselves from our Rainy Day
25 Fund, which is why you built it up. That's

1 MS. HOLMES: Yes.

2 MS. BONDS: Mr. Washington?

3 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes. With three
4 yeas, zeros nays, the resolution passes.

5 Item No. 8, Resolution No. 2020-12,
6 standards of eligibility of township
7 assistance.

8 Madam Trustee?

9 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes. This is our
10 presentation of our standards of eligibility
11 that we must submit to the board according
12 to Clorius Lay I.C. 36-something. So we
13 made a few changes, and these were -- I
14 think yours were marked. Were there's
15 marked? Okay.

16 So if you would go to Page 9, according
17 to standards, state and federal poverty
18 guidelines, we changed the gross income
19 amount. And if you look in your book at
20 home, you would see the difference. I think
21 it went up maybe -- it was \$8,888 so a
22 little over 125, or so, dollars.

23 Then if you go to Page 24, again, the
24 gross income increases, and these are all
25 according to state statutes.

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1 If you go to Page 28, we had an increase
2 in food stamps that came from the state.

3 And finally, on Page 47 there was just a
4 statement change that all existing state and
5 federal benefits must be issued solely from
6 the State of Indiana. We have, of course,
7 had people who have come in from across
8 borders of Illinois, Michigan and tried to
9 get benefits here in Indiana and benefits in
10 Minnesota where they came from. And we just
11 have to make it clear that they only -- what
12 we are allowed to accept is that they have
13 any benefits from the State of Indiana. So
14 if you would make the approval, we'll be
15 able to use this for the year 2021.

16 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Any questions by
17 board members?

18 MS. HOLMES: No.

19 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Hearing none, the
20 Chair makes a motion for the approval of
21 Resolution 2020-12, standards of eligibility
22 of township assistance. Is there a second?

23 MS. HOLMES: I second.

24 MR. PIGGEE: I have a question.

25 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: You got a

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1 question?

2 MR. PIGGEE: I have a question.

3 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Go ahead.

4 MR. PIGGEE: Madam Trustee?

5 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes.

6 MR. PIGGEE: The people that's coming
7 from out of state to Gary to receive this
8 assistance, what do they have to do and what
9 do they have to present in order to get this
10 assistance?

11 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Okay. I'm not going
12 to go through, for the sake of time,
13 everything.

14 MR. PIGGEE: Yeah, I understand that.

15 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: But it's in the book,
16 and it starts with an ID, a license, a
17 driver's license, state ID, anything that
18 says that you are a resident of Gary, Cal
19 Township or Griffith for now. That's what
20 it starts with.

21 And then, if you're asking for rent,
22 we need a lease. If you're asking for
23 utilities, we need a utility bill. If
24 you're asking for food, we just need your
25 monthly income.

1 MR. PIGGEE: Okay. Thank you,
2 Mr. Chairman.

3 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. The
4 problem, Mr. Piggee, is that a lot of people
5 are transient, and they come here and
6 provide that information, and then they
7 leave.

8 MR. PIGGEE: That's my point.

9 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: And the state
10 doesn't require any residential requirements
11 for a certain amount of time, which is
12 something that should happen because when
13 you compare our township to others, people
14 come here temporary and then they leave, but
15 they stay in other townships, and that is a
16 big problem that we have that I believe is
17 disparaging not only racially but racially
18 from an economic and city structure as
19 compared to others that they ignore down in
20 Indianapolis.

21 So that is the challenge that this
22 township has with that. If we can get
23 somebody to allow us to state, if you're
24 going to come here and take this money, you
25 have to be here for at least a year or so,

1 why you have reserves. Thank goodness you
2 did, with Covid.

3 MR. PIGGEE: Okay. I'm good with that.

4 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Ms. Holmes, do you
5 have anything?

6 MS. HOLMES: No, I don't. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Chair makes a
8 motion for approval of Resolution No.
9 2020-10, temporary loan extension. Is there
10 a second?

11 MR. PIGGEE: Second.

12 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: With a second, may
13 we have a roll call, Ms. Bonds?

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. With three
20 yeas, Resolution 2020-10 is approved.

21 Item No. 7, Resolution No. 2020-11, 2021
22 holiday schedule.

23 Madam Trustee?

24 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes, Mr. Chair, this
25 is just our usual holiday schedule that we

1 have set to begin January 1st of 2021, and
2 it's before we have another meeting. So we
3 have the same 13, almost 12, because we have
4 every Friday off, so those are days that I
5 just mentioned, but we already had them, but
6 we have them in here. Nothing's changed.
7 We haven't removed any or added any. We ask
8 that you please accept this for the calendar
9 year 2021.

10 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Thank you, Madam
11 Trustee.

12 Any questions or comments by board
13 members?

14 MS. HOLMES: No questions.

15 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Mr. Piggee?

16 MR. PIGGEE: No.

17 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Chair makes a
18 motion for the approval of Resolution
19 2020-11. Is there a second?

20 MS. HOLMES: I second.

21 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: With a second, may
22 we have a roll call, Ms. Bonds?

23 MS. BONDS: Mr. Piggee?

24 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

25 MS. BONDS: Ms. Holmes?

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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

and

Members of the Public

* * * * *

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(BOARD MEETING COMMENCED AT 6:03 PM.)

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Welcome, ladies and gentlemen, to the Calumet Township Board Meeting. Let's stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

(STOOD FOR PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.)

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Good evening. May we have a roll call, Ms. Bonds.

MS. BONDS: Mr. Piggee?

MR. PIGGEE: Present.

MS. BONDS: Ms. Holmes?

MS. HOLMES: Present.

MS. BONDS: Mr. Washington?

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Present.

With three present, we have enough to have our forum for the meeting this evening.

We have Item No. 2, approval of the minutes for September 21st, 2020.

Board members, did you get a chance to review the minutes?

MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. The Chair would like to make a motion to approve the minutes --

MR. PIGGEE: So moved.

1 that would help us out.

2 MR. PIGGEE: Exactly.

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

5 MS. BONDS: Mr. Piggee?

6 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

7 MS. BONDS: Ms. Holmes?

8 MS. HOLMES: Yes.

9 MS. BONDS: Mr. Washington?

10 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes. With three
11 yeas, zero nays, motion carries.

12 Item No. 9, are there any public
13 comments for this evening? If so, come to
14 the microphone, state your name.

15 MS. SMITH: Chairman Washington, I think
16 I can talk loud enough. Tomorrow is Trustee
17 Kimberly K. Robinson's birthday. I know
18 that it's a day early, but if we could all
19 just sing "Happy Birthday," that would be
20 something I would love to do.

21 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: No.

22 MS. SMITH: That would be something nice
23 for us to do. So who wants to lead?

24 (EVERYONE SINGING HAPPY BIRTHDAY.)

25 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Thank you. Thank

1 you.

2 (LAUGHTER AND CHATTER.)

3 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Any comments,
4 Madam Trustee?

5 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Thank you to my
6 staff. Thank you to the work of the board.
7 We won't see each other anymore this year.
8 So I'd like to wish you and your families
9 all the blessings of the holiday season as
10 we usher into, hopefully, a better and more
11 bountiful 2021. Thank you. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Board comments?
13 Mr. Piggee?

14 MR. PIGGEE: Well, Mr. Chair, I think we
15 had a very productive meeting tonight,
16 especially when it comes down to dealing
17 with money. I'm always interested in how we
18 get it and where it's going, these types of
19 things. But I think it's very productive.
20 I think you people have done a good job in
21 terms of handling the money for the year of
22 2020.

23 And Ms. Trustee, we don't mind a present
24 for the board for Christmas. But other than
25 that, we've had a productive day. Thank

1 you.

2 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Thank you,
3 Mr. Piggee. And Mr. Piggee speaks for
4 himself and not for the board.

5 Ms. Holmes?

6 MS. HOLMES: I just wanted to commend
7 the Calumet Township board and staff and
8 also your families for putting up with you
9 with all of the hours you've been working.
10 You all been doing good, been staying safe,
11 and that's one of the main things. So
12 continue doing the best job you can do for
13 next year.

14 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Attorney Monroe,
15 do you have any comments?

16 ATTORNEY MONROE: No. We just wish and
17 we pray that next year is going to be a
18 better year than 2020.

19 Trustee, you all did submit that
20 information to the state regarding your
21 Covid reimbursements?

22 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes, and we found out
23 that we were rejected for the food portion
24 that we had spent on the gift cards and the
25 additional purchase orders that we sent out

1 because they said that it was already
2 budgeted, and that wasn't -- but we are
3 still waiting to hear for our PPE equipment
4 and things. So as soon as we know --

5 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Madam Trustee, I
6 got a question, and I know you've probably
7 talked to your other fellow trustees.

8 What is the sentiment among other
9 trustees about trying to get legislation to
10 put residential requirements for a certain
11 amount of time to kind of prevent people
12 going back and forth? Are we the only --
13 are we the only township that's for it? How
14 is that --

15 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: No. If you remember,
16 when we first came in, the previous
17 administration had that, and it wasn't
18 any -- well, I'm not sure if they had it in
19 the form of a resolution or was just decided
20 upon the trustee, but ITA, Indiana Township
21 Association, did tell us that we cannot have
22 a residency requirement. As soon as they
23 move into your township or they even just
24 notify you that they are here in your
25 township for help, you must help them.

1 That's why we had to take it out of our
2 prior paperwork.

3 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: What is the
4 sentiment, though, about trying to get
5 legislation to get something in there for
6 our residential requirement? Because we
7 know legislation changes all the time which
8 they did to this township with (inaudible).
9 So have you had a discussion, which I know
10 you have, are other townships as concerned
11 as we are to like put a year residency
12 requirement in it, or do they still say
13 that's unconstitutional?

14 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: No, that would
15 probably be under unconstitutional, as you
16 said. But what we are trying to do, like
17 other townships more so do, is put a cap on
18 a number at how much service you can receive
19 annually in a calendar year.

20 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay.

21 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: You know, you cannot
22 for the rest of your life. And so that's
23 what I would like to work on as they do in
24 North Township so --

25 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay.

1 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: But I will ask again
2 and get something in writing because we have
3 worked closely with State Representative
4 Vernon Smith, of course, and Representative
5 Chyung. So I will again make pleas when we
6 go down in January.

7 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. To
8 everybody, have a blessed holiday season.
9 Keep safe. Keep your mask on. The
10 Coronavirus is real, regardless of what
11 other people say. And we operate in the
12 spirit of the Lord, but we also operate with
13 wisdom. And we don't operate in ignorance
14 and stupidity.

15 So our goal is to save lives and make
16 sure that the hard work that you do, you're
17 able to continue to make the Township proud
18 being on the frontline like you've been. So
19 just stay safe, and our prayers go with you
20 and your families.

21 With that being said, Chair makes a
22 motion for adjournment. Is there a
23 second?

24 MR. PIGGEE: Second.

25 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All in favor,

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signify by saying aye.

BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: No nays, the ayes
have it. Have a blessed evening.

(MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6:35 PM.)

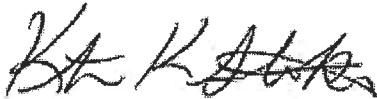
1 STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS:
 2 COUNTY OF LAKE)

3 THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
 4 GARY, INDIANA

7 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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

17
 18 Signed this 23rd day of October, 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

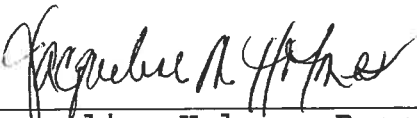
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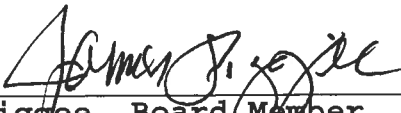
1 STATE OF INDIANA)
2) SS:
3 COUNTY OF LAKE)

4 THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
5 GARY, INDIANA

6
7 These minutes of the Calumet Township Board
8 meeting held on October 19, 2020, were approved by
9 the Board of Trustees on the 5th day of
10 January, 2021.

11
12
13 _____
Darren Washington, Board Chairman

14 
15 _____
Jacqueline Holmes, Board Secretary

16
17 
18 _____
James Piggee, Board Member

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