## In The Matter Of:

Before the Calumet Township
Board of Trustees

September 27, 2021 Regular Meeting

## **BOSS REPORTERS**

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



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3	THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
4	GARY, INDIANA
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8	REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had at the meeting
9	before the Calumet Township Board, reported by
10	Kristen K. Stokes, CSR, Notary Public in and for the
11	County of Lake, State of Indiana, taken at 610
12	Connecticut Street, Gary, Indiana, on September 27,
13	2021, scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. in the
14	evening.
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21	BOSS REPORTERS & VIDEOCONFERENCING
22	GARY * MERRILLVILLE * VALPARAISO, INDIANA (219) 769-9090
23	(21), 10)-9090
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1	APPEARANCES:
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3	Darren Washington, Board Chairman
4	Jacqueline Holmes, Board Secretary
5	James Piggee, Board Member
6	Deidre Monroe, Board Attorney
7	Kimberly Robinson, Township Trustee
8	Sherita Smith, Chief Deputy
9	Rinzer Williams, III, Township Attorney
10	Toyka Cunningham, Executive Secretary
11	Gladys Miller, Finance Manager
12	Steve Dalton, Financial Advisor
13	and
14	Members of the Public
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(BOARD MEETING COMMENCED AT 6:00 PM.)
CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Good evening,
ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the Calumet
Township Board meeting for this evening. May
we stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.
(THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.)
CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Can we have roll
call, Ms. Cunningham?
MS. CUNNINGHAM: Yes. Mr. Piggee?
MR. PIGGEE: Present.
MS. CUNNINGHAM: Ms. Holmes?
MS. HOLMES: Present.
MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Washington?
CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Present.
With three board members present, we have
enough to continue our meeting.
Item No. 3, approval of the minutes July
19, 2021.
MR. PIGGEE: So moved.
CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Before we move
forward, to Boss Reporters, Ms. Holmes
brought to my attention on Page 2, for
appearances, my name is left out totally.
We're going to have you opening the meeting.
So we need to add Darren Washington,

1	Board President on Page No. 2. Any other
2	changes to the minutes?
3	(NO RESPONSE.)
4	CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Hearing none. Roll
5	call, Ms. Cunningham.
6	MS. CUNNINGHAM: Yes. Mr. Piggee?
7	MR. PIGGEE: Yes.
8	MS. CUNNINGHAM: Ms. Holmes?
9	MS. HOLMES: Yes.
10	MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Washington?
11	CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.
12	Thank you. We move now to Item No. 4,
13	the Resolution 2021-07, Temporary Loan
14	Extension.
15	Good evening, Madam Trustee.
16	TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Good evening. I will
17	defer to Mr. Dalton from Cender & Cender.
18	MR. DALTON: I think I'm going to stand
19	up for the pomp and circumstance and to talk
20	over the air.
21	This resolution is an annual resolution
22	that you see every fall at this time. You
23	have already loaned \$500,000 previously this
24	year from the Rainy Day Fund to the General
25	Fund. This resolution says that you may or

may not pay it back by December 31st. Quite
often we don't. We pay it back in January.
So we're required, if we're not going to pay
it back by December 31st exactly, to have a
resolution in place that authorizes us to
wait until after the first of the year to pay
that \$500,000 loan back. That's all this is
asking for.
CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Any questions by
the board members?
MR. PIGGEE: No.
CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Or attorney?
ATTORNEY MONROE: (Shaking head.)
CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: The Chair makes a
motion for the approval of Resolution
2021-07, Temporary Loan Extension. Is there
a second?
MS. HOLMES: I second.
CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Hearing a second by
Ms. Holmes, may we have a roll call,
Ms. Cunningham?
MS. CUNNINGHAM: Yes. Mr. Piggee?
MR. PIGGEE: Yes.
MS. CUNNINGHAM: Ms. Holmes?
MD. COMMINGHAM. Mp. HOLIMES:

1	MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Washington?
2	CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.
3	With three yes, the resolution passes.
4	Item No. 5, Resolution 2021-08, Budget
5	Resolution, State Budget Form No. 4.
6	MR. DALTON: Mr. Chairman, I'll speak
7	first to protocol. Tonight is the public
8	hearing portion of the review, but it is not
9	the vote portion by the Board. If it'd be
10	okay with you, I'd like to give a little
11	overview of the budget because it seems odd
12	to me to ask the public to make comments when
13	they don't actually even have that much
14	detail on the budget. Is that okay?
15	CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.
16	MR. DALTON: And what I'm going to do is
17	compare and contrast this proposed budget to
18	the previous year, the one that we're looking
19	at right now. The proposed budget was
20	published, by the way, about a month ago on
21	Gateway. The Raining Day Fund, \$500,000.
22	The General Fund, \$2,013,000. The Township
23	Assistance Administration Fund, \$1,750,000.
24	The Township Assistance Benefits Fund,
25	\$1,823,000. Those are all relatively similar

to the 2021 budgets.

I will point out some differences. There is no difference in the Rainy Day Fund, same exact amount.

In the General Fund it has increased by roughly \$100,000, and those line items are for longevity pay, some additional stationery and office supplies and our normal expenses, some additional repairs and maintenance because we are running a little bit higher on repairs and maintenance than our budgets in the past have allowed and some capital outlays.

If you recall, all townships are required to have a capital plan now by the legislature. So we put a \$25,000 line item in for capital outlays. Sometimes we don't use this, but because that's also in our plan, we need to have the two, which are remarkably similar to each other.

The Township Administration Fund has increased also by roughly \$100,000. Very similarly, it is made up of longevity pay increase and repairs and maintenance. Those are the two lines that have popped out at the

1	internal staff as items that did not really
2	match our current expenses.
3	There is no change whatsoever to the
4	Township Assistance Benefits Budget.
5	So for the public comments section you
6	are to review the four funds that are
7	available for the Board are Rainy Day,
8	\$500,000; General Fund, \$2,013,000; Township
9	Assistance Administration, \$1,750,000;
10	Township Assistance Benefit, \$1,823,000.
11	I'll take questions, Mr. Chairman, and
12	then you can move on with the public portion.
13	CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Any questions by
14	the board members right now? Mr. Piggee?
15	MR. PIGGEE: Well, first of all, let me
16	get myself together with this kind of monies.
17	Are these monies that we have that we're
18	dishing out to different organizations,
19	different companies and things of this nature
20	for people who don't pay the rent? Is this
21	monies that we're using?
22	MR. DALTON: So let me break it down,
23	Mr. Piggee. The Township Assistance Benefits
24	Fund is the fund most associated with what
25	you're defining, which are assistance to

1	those most in need in the township with rent,
2	with utilities, with food.
3	MR. PIGGEE: Yes.
4	MR. DALTON: The Township Assistance
5	Administration Fund is our staff that
6	supports that process here in this building.
7	The General Fund is all other operations
8	of the Township, like the general purpose
9	building, this building itself, the
10	administrative staff, the Trustee and
11	yourselves.
12	The key fund is the Township Assistance
13	Benefits Fund is the one most closely related
14	to handing out to those who are most in need.
15	MR. PIGGEE: Mr. Chair, can I I got
16	another
17	CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.
18	MR. PIGGEE: another question.
19	MR. DALTON: Yes.
20	MR. PIGGEE: In January we voted for a
21	raise. Does the raise come out of these
22	monies?
23	MR. DALTON: Remind me which raise you're
24	talking about.
25	MR. PIGGEE: The staff raises.

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1	TRUSTEE ROBINSON: He's talking about
2	longevity.
3	MR. DALTON: Longevity. Okay. In
4	January when you passed a resolution to allow
5	longevity, that affected all employees. So
6	that would be a Township civil employee
7	and/or a Township benefits employee. So
8	either one of those funds that has employees
9	in them, those employees are eligible for
10	those longevity
11	MR. PIGGEE: Those raises. Good. Okay.
12	MR. DALTON: They were not exactly
13	raises. They were longevity. We kind of
14	separate those two terms.
15	MR. PIGGEE: Well, when it was presented
16	to us, it was presented to the Board as
17	TRUSTEE ROBINSON: As longevity.
18	MR. PIGGEE: As longevity? Okay. Thank
19	you, Township Trustee.
20	CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Any more?
21	MR. PIGGEE: No. I'm fine.
22	CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Steve, I got one
23	question. And it's about the budget because
24	we're going toward the salary resolution. So
25	what's in the budget for employee salaries?

Is that -- because what we have before us, we 1 2 don't have what each person is specifically 3 being paid. Is that budget that's presented on each person's specific salary, or is it 4 5 set based on a range, the top number? 6 MR. DALTON: We have for the last six or seven years, Mr. Chairman, budgeted more than 7 8 what's needed. As you all know, because we 9 commented a little bit about the challenge 10 that we've had with Griffith, this Township 11 administration has spent less than budgeted 12 each of the last six consecutive years. there is a little bit more than is needed in 13 14 the budget than the grand total of the salaries themselves. 15 16 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: So I assume, based 17 on what we see in the salary schedule, it 18 would be the highest. 19 MR. DALTON: Yes, that's a good 20 assumption. 21 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. The next thing for the public and the record. 22 I got a 23 chance to review the article in the Post 24 Tribune three days ago. Can you give a 25 little snippet to the public and on record

about the levy, about Griffith as of
January 1st leaving the AV, what happens
with that and what's going to happen with
Gary and the schools. Because I think a lot
of people don't have an understanding of one
of the reasons why we were trying -- why we
were fighting this, but what actually happens
now to levy, AVs and all that. You did it
perfectly, and I don't what to mess it up.
So I thought I'd have you explain it.

MR. DALTON: I will be happy to attempt.

I will probably mess it up too because I had
a little more time to write that email.

Let me put it this way. Six years ago, if Griffith had left the Township, we would have been in a hurting way, to be honest.

And the fact that we attempted to work with Griffith and attempted to find a way to work together with Griffith also bought us time to right-size this side of the Township because we now spend less money. We have less employees. We have a greater level of efficiency and proficiency within the staff and cross-training of the staff.

So I want to give my compliments to all

of you that now five or six years later you guys are in a lot better spot. When Griffith leaves on January 1st, their assessed value is no longer a part of Calumet Township. It becomes a part of North Township.

When you lose assessed value, the same exact levy is going to cost more tax rates to get that same amount of money because that's how the formula works. So same levy, less assessed value, means more tax rate.

Well, because everyone is protected by
the one percent, two percent and three
percent circuit-breakers, nobody is going to
pay more taxes. Not a single person is going
to pay more taxes. What's going to happen is
there will be more credits, more
circuit-breaker credits.

And those circuit-breaker credits mean that each entity of government will collect less than their full levy. Do you want to get this much, but we'll get this much because we're protected by the one, two or three circuit-breaker credits. And because they essentially collect less, they all feel like they're getting less dollars.

1	The impact of Griffith leaving could have
2	been a disaster for us five or six years ago
3	because we would have had perhaps as much
4	as a million dollars in additional
5	circuit-breaker losses because we've
6	right-sized the Township, we've been able to
7	prepare ourselves the last couple of years
8	for this succession, as I was calling it.
9	The down side is that because we're
10	prepared and we have plenty of headroom in
11	our levy, we can ask for enough levy to be
12	able to consume the new circuit-breaker.
13	We're going to actually be pushing the
14	circuit-breaker off on the city and the
15	schools. We told them that. This is not
16	going to be a surprise. I hope it's not a
17	surprise. But that's the down side. In
18	getting ready on our end, the schools and the
19	city will have more circuit-breaker in 2022
20	than they did in 2021. That is Griffith's,
21	quote, unquote, fault, but we are prepared on
22	your end.
23	MR. PIGGEE: Mr. Chairman.
24	CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.
25	MR. PIGGEE: Will you be able to get some

money for the referendum? 1 2 MR. DALTON: No. 3 MR. PIGGEE: Since everybody else is getting money from the referendum, like the 4 schools and places like that, I was just 5 wondering if the Township gets referendum. 6 MR. DALTON: So the short answer is no. 7 We don't need it though. What -- I guess 8 what I'm trying to express is that you're in 9 10 really good financial shape. Your cash reserves are strong. You're going to still 11 12 have a balanced budget in two of the three property tax funds. The General Fund will 13 14 probably be a little out of balance in 2022. 15 And then I think I can get it back in balance 16 in 2023 with normal levy growth. 17 So you're good. You don't need a 18 referendum or to charge the taxpayers more 19 than the one, two, three. And this does not hurt the school's referendum. 20 They still 21 will get all their money as well for the 22 referendum. 23 MR. PIGGEE: Okay. 24 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All right. Do you 25 have anything?

Ms. Holmes?

MS. HOLMES: No.

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: The next question that I have, at our last meeting we had Representative Brown and we had some members of the Cal Township come in. Has there been any meetings since the last meeting regarding possible dollars that the county said that they had to be able to provide to us in this budget to, maybe not everything they need to have ambulatory services but something that could be possibly done. So I'm asking Madam Trustee to see what's going on with that.

TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes, we had a meeting scheduled with Commissioner Repay, which was canceled. I had this for my notes. But I also had a just on-the-spot meeting with County Councilman Jergesen because he's on the Public Safety Committee, he and Councilman Hamm. And what he was saying to me is that he would like to have a meeting with the Lake Ridge Fire Department because he does not believe that the onus should be on the Township since that is not one of our responsibilities.

1	And he would like to have a meeting with
2	them and for them to come to the county and
3	ask for he said the budget is done, but
4	it's not like we can't, you know, ask for an
5	amendment for their public or through
6	their Public Safety Fund. So that was the
7	last and I asked him could I say this
8	tonight if he couldn't make it.
9	And so I'm trying by the October meeting
10	to get with him to get this in writing or get
11	some connection going as to who can be
12	responsible for the help in Cal Township.
13	MR. PIGGEE: I have a question for you,
14	Trustee.
15	CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Go ahead,
16	Mr. Piggee.
17	MR. PIGGEE: Charlie Brown is the
18	councilman of that particular area that we're
19	talking about?
20	CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: He's not.
21	TRUSTEE ROBINSON: No. Mr. Menchaca is.
22	MR. PIGGEE: What was Charlie Brown here
23	trying to do?
24	TRUSTEE ROBINSON: He came as a Lake
25	County Councilman because we invited all of

1	them to come, and he was here. He spoke.
2	MR. PIGGEE: Okay. Thank you.
3	TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Mr. Menchaca did not
4	show.
5	MR. PIGGEE: Okay.
6	CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: And Mr. Piggee,
7	just to let you know, Councilman Menchaca and
8	Councilman Brown, they both represent Gary,
9	but the portion that we're discussing is Cal
10	Township, which falls in Menchaca's area.
11	MR. PIGGEE: Okay. Thank you.
12	CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Mr. Brown was here,
13	you know, because we invited him, so he
14	wanted to share that information with
15	Councilman Menchaca.
16	MR. PIGGEE: Okay. Thank you.
17	ATTORNEY WILLIAMS: Chair.
18	CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.
19	ATTORNEY WILLIAMS: Just to add a little
20	context to that, we have resolved the larger
21	issue, and that is where the money lies to
22	provide the services. I think now all on
23	board agrees the money is with the county. I
24	had that conversation with Commissioner
25	Repay, and he also agrees.

At this point we're just trying to figure 1 2 out who's better suited to come request the money to get that allocation, and I concur 3 4 with the Trustee, that Lake Ridge is probably 5 most likely better suited and closer in some aspects. 6 7 So we have resolved the biggest issue. The biggest issue was who was going to fund 8 9 it and where the funding was going to come. 10 That's been resolved. Now it's just who's 11 going to provide the service. 12 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Any comments from 13 board members or administration? Hearing 14 none. 15 Tonight is a public hearing on the 16 proposed budget of 2022. If you would like 17 to come to the microphone, state your name 18 for the record and please make your comments. 19 Go ahead. Did you want to speak on the 20 budget? 21 That's what I'm asking, is MS. TRIBBLE: 22 it just about the budget? 23 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: The budget, yes. 24 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: At this point, yes. 25 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: If you want to talk

about the issue, I don't have a problem with 1 2 you speaking on it because we thought that 3 some resolutions may have been reached so it can be implemented in the budget if we were 4 going to be the entity that would do that. 5 But seeing that we know the money exists 6 7 and we're not -- based on Madam Trustee's presentation tonight, that Jergesen is going 8 9 to speak to Lake Ridge about them getting 10 that money, I don't have a problem if you 11 wanted to say a few things about that because 12 we needed to put that in the budget if it was going to fall on us. So if you want to say 13 something, you can say something. 14 15 MS. NEESE: I just have a question on the ambulance service. 16 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: State your name for 17 18 the record. 19 MS. NEESE: My name is Louise Neese. 20 a precinct committee member from the Calumet 21 Township unincorporated area. I have a 22 question saying what amount of the budget 23 comes from the unincorporated area versus the city limits? 24 25 I don't know that off the MR. DALTON:

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1	top of my head. We surely could get that,
2	pull that together for you.
3	MS. NEESE: I'd appreciate it.
4	MR. DALTON: It's a small percentage, but
5	I don't know the amount.
6	MS. NEESE: I just wanted the number.
7	MS. TRIBBLE: My name is Tanya Tribble.
8	So this budget we're talking about and you
9	said that it now depends on who needs to go
10	ask for the money? Is am I understanding
11	that right?
12	TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes.
13	MS. TRIBBLE: Okay. That's confusing to
14	me because I pulled up
15	CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Let me try to see
16	if I can add some clarity to that, and then
17	Attorney Rinzer can chime in and the Trustee.
18	What we found out is there may be monies
19	available through the county. The question
20	now is based on the County Council, who will
21	be responsible for allocating that? Where
22	would that money go? Would it come to us, or
23	would it go to the Lake Ridge Fire
24	Department?
25	Based on what we were told tonight,

Councilman Jergesen wants to talk to Lake
Ridge about getting that money for ambulatory
services because he felt that the onus should
not be on Cal Township. So there is going to
be another meeting to decide how that money
and where that money should go.

TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Cal Township Trustee's Office. That's what he told me. Because I told him as well the conversation that we had -- or you guys had with Lake Ridge Fire Protection and that they are not interested. They don't want any part of it.

And he said how can they say -- and I hate to keep paraphrasing what he said to me. I wish he was here, and that's why I want to get it straight between all parties, so that you don't -- you know, if you don't want to take my word, at least he could come.

But he said that he doesn't understand how they get to say no when they're already set up for fire protection funded by the county versus we are not fire protection. We used to have the EMS, but we no longer have that.

So that's where I am with it as far as

what he said that he would be willing to do. 1 2 MS. TRIBBLE: So in the meantime, we're 3 still in limbo? Is that what --TRUSTEE ROBINSON: No, you're still 4 working through the MOUs that we have with 5 6 the surrounding communities and cities. MS. TRIBBLE: Well, just so you know, I 7 8 spoke the last time and said my fear would be 9 to have to call 911 for my parents, and I 10 did. It was 13 minutes to get an ambulance 11 there, four of which the ambulance was 12 dispatched, but four minutes later another 13 ambulance was dispatched. 13 minutes. Thank 14 God it wasn't cardiac, so I didn't have to 15 perform CPR because I couldn't have done it 16 for 13 minutes. There's no way. 17 That's my fear, and it's going to 18 continue because nobody cares. And I'm 19 sorry. I feel nobody cares about us. We pay 20 our taxes, and we get no response of any kind 21 from county or from here. 22 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Any more comments 23 regarding the proposed budget agreement? 24 Hearing none, that point is closed. 25 Item No. 6, Resolution 2021-09, Salary

1	Resolution.
2	Madam Chair or Madam Trustee.
3	TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I will defer to
4	Mr. Dalton.
5	MR. DALTON: Madam Trustee, I might defer
6	to your deputy because she knows what changes
7	are made. I can tell you as a Board, there
8	were very few changes made to this resolution
9	from this year, prior year and the prior year
10	before that. I think there may have been one
11	or two.
12	MS. SMITH: One, actually.
13	MR. DALTON: Please point that one out.
14	MS. SMITH: Only one change, and it was
15	not a financial one. All the numbers are
16	still the same. They have not gone up or
17	gone down in any way, but the only change is
18	to my title. So beginning in January when
19	everything is passed, I'll go from Chief
20	Deputy to Chief of Staff. That is the only
21	change.
22	CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Any other questions
23	from board members? Mr. Piggee?
24	MR. PIGGEE: In other words, you are the
25	person now. It's just the title is changing;

1	is that right?
2	MS. SMITH: Just a title. It's going
3	from Chief Deputy to Chief of Staff.
4	MR. PIGGEE: Chief of staff. Okay.
5	CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Can you also for
6	the Board, can you provide us a detailed list
7	of the actual salary of each person in the
8	Township? What we have now is basically just
9	ranges. So can you provide each board member
10	with a list of what every person is making
11	directly for their salary. That would be a
12	lot better for me when I'm looking at the
13	budget and trying to look at certain things
14	because I know there's latitude for pay
15	raises, longevity, and whatever it is, based
16	on your evaluation assessments, but we would
17	need to get a copy of what each person makes
18	individually.
19	MR. PIGGEE: Ms. Trustee?
20	TRUSTEE ROBINSON: We provided that
21	before, but I'm just making that for the
22	record. It was provided, and it hasn't
23	changed, but it will be provided again.
24	Yes, sir.
25	CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Now, wait a minute.

1	When I looked at the budget, the last budget,
2	unless I looked at something different, I
3	know that there
4	TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Because we had this
5	question before, Mr. Chair, and Ms. Smith
6	provided you with names and salaries.
7	CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Not in this.
8	MS. SMITH: You got it last year there.
9	MR. PIGGEE: It wasn't this year. It was
10	last year. It was 2020.
11	TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Okay. So you'll get
12	it. But I just wanted for the notes to say
13	it was requested and it should have been
14	received in your packets from before.
15	What's your question, Mr. Piggee?
16	MR. PIGGEE: I was just letting the Chair
17	know that we did receive it, I think it was a
18	year or two ago, because I asked for it.
19	TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Okay.
20	CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Because of the
21	changes in COVID increase, bonuses on a
22	yearly basis, the public salary may or may
23	not change.
24	TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Right.
25	CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: But every year when

1	you provide the salary and you provide the
2	budget, just provide what each and every
3	person makes because it may change from year
4	to year.
5	Item No. 7, Resolution 2021-10, Transfer
6	to Rainy Day Fund.
7	TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Mr. Dalton.
8	MR. DALTON: This is a new topic.
9	CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: I'm sorry. We need
10	to vote on the salary resolution.
11	TRUSTEE ROBINSON: No, I thought that
12	was
13	MR. DALTON: You can do whatever you
14	want. It's your guys' call.
15	TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Do you want to vote
16	today or do the budget at the next meeting?
17	CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. We'll wait
18	until next meeting.
19	TRUSTEE ROBINSON: And you can get your
20	sheet of what is made.
21	CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. Thank you.
22	Item No. 7, Resolution 2020-10, Transfer
23	to Rainy Day Fund.
24	MR. DALTON: This is a new topic that we
25	did not see this time last year. This is

required by the State, but if we want to make 1 2 a transfer, and I'm recommending that you do, from any one of your property tax funds to 3 the Rainy Day Fund, then we need to ask the 4 5 Board for approval to do so. This is a request to transfer \$200,000 6 from each of the Township Assistance Funds to the Rainy Day Fund as a matter of basically 8 9 building up our reserves for any type of 10 future emergency. I recommend approval. 11 These dollars are not being spent per se. 12 They're just being moved from one fund to 13 another. 14 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Any questions by board members? 15 MR. PIGGEE: You know, I -- I do have a 16 17 problem, not with this, but with the 18 situation before when we're talking about 19 the county and those two ladies that left. 20 I'm very concerned about that situation, and I didn't get a chance to talk on it before we 21 22 moved on, and they are gone. 23 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: I'll tell you what, 24 you can address that in your comments. 25 MR. PIGGEE: Okay.

1	CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Do you have any
2	questions regarding the resolution?
3	MR. PIGGEE: No.
4	CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. Any
5	questions?
6	MS. HOLMES: No.
7	CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All right. Roll
8	call.
9	MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Piggee?
10	MR. PIGGEE: Yes.
11	MS. CUNNINGHAM: Ms. Holmes?
12	MS. HOLMES: Yes.
13	MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Washington?
14	CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes. Resolution
15	2020-10 passes.
16	No. 8, public comments. Hearing none.
17	No. 9, Trustee comments.
18	TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Good evening, I just
19	wanted to comment on the we just got back
20	from ITA last week, which was really good.
21	We were able to take 11 members of staff, and
22	now everyone on currently on staff has
23	been at least one time to experience the
24	networking and the exchange of best practices
25	from township to township throughout the
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state, and I had on here the report that I gave in speaking to Councilman Jergesen, and tomorrow I'll make a call to him to see if there can be some concrete discussion and something more that we could do as Cal Township for these two residents feeling left out.

But at this point there's nothing that we can do because we don't have the budget. It's not our responsibility. I know they don't want to hear that when you have life and death issues at hand, but what it is is what it is. And more of their conversation should be pointed at the county. The county has far more resources than we do. People always forget. They go to local government first, and they forget how the county is there with the very balanced, over budget, and the money is there. We just have to figure a way to get it. And how are they not so disturbed by their own Lake Ridge Fire Protection that they -- that has been paid for and is supposed to be focused primarily for the Calumet Township region and not, you know, us?

So I don't want to keep speaking on that, but that's how I feel about it.

And I just want to say August 25th we -since August 25th, we've been having the food
give-away at the multi-purpose center. It's
like about a 20-pound box of fresh fruits and
vegetables from local farming, and we get -we started out getting 540 boxes. We now get
580. Mr. Hudson has been our lead on that.
And so I want to give kudos to Mr. Jonathan -and Councilwoman Tai Atkins who have helped
in the efforts, and I believe that is it.

I want to ask the Board if there is something or some way that you can suggest we handle the, I guess, protocol in which we still have some employees who have not received a vaccination, and I just want to know, you know, we did have a scare maybe in the earlier part of this month, and we had to have an emergency disinfection because we had one person who came in sick and made three other people sick and so forth and so on.

We've been doing really good in keeping our bubble, you know, together as you see all the PPE and everything else, that we are

really trying because we know that we are essential. And we have not, you know, shut down fully, but we have had some reduced hours because we just don't want to put anybody at, you know, risk.

So I just wonder if maybe you guys could talk amongst yourself and give me some ideas like where you are in other places you work, how it goes and how you decide. I know it's not mandated yet for employees to get it, but we're going to try to follow the lead maybe of the counties since we're kind of between city and county government, on our own.

It appears that they can't even get a mask mandate passed, so I doubt if they would get that, but still. Or even if we go to our state level, if it's something that you guys can -- if there's some conversation you can lend to me about it, I would appreciate it because I certainly want -- I would want your input in deciding how we handle that part.

And I also wanted to know if you guys got your packets in time because I know they asked to be maybe a week out. Was that a good -- and I'd just like to say that if

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1	there's ever any questions, comments,
2	concerns, criticisms from board members, just
3	call me. If you can find it in your heart to
4	call me before a decent hour, like maybe
5	before 10:00 p.m., Coach Piggee, that'd be
6	great. I'd be willing to answer the call for
7	anything on your mind, any question, concern
8	you have. My phone just as I tell my
9	staff, my phone and my door is all open for
10	it. Thank you.
11	CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Board comments?
12	MR. PIGGEE: What Madam Trustee was
13	talking about, I had a concern about
14	evaluations.
15	How many staff members do you have, Madam
16	Trustee?
17	TRUSTEE ROBINSON: 35.
18	MR. PIGGEE: 35. And how many
19	departments?
20	TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I would say four.
21	MR. PIGGEE: Four departments. And you
22	have a person that's over that department?
23	TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes, we have managers.
24	MR. PIGGEE: And you and I talked about
25	it, about the evaluations and stuff of that

10	
1	nature, the manager evaluating, and then the
2	next person evaluate them. And the reason I
3	came up with that idea is because it had been
4	brought to my attention by somebody that the
5	people walking in late and these kinds of
6	things, but you have a beautiful setup. I
7	want to tell you that. It's really a
8	beautiful setup.
9	I went through, and I was very impressed.
10	I was very impressed with the way you had it
11	set up. Okay? And she was talking about me
12	because I called her, and she and I talked
13	about it. So I think she's got all of my
14	questions and everything licked. Okay.
15	TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Very good. I
16	appreciate that.
17	MR. PIGGEE: No problem. I appreciate
18	you and your staff.
19	CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Now do you want to
20	make comments about the ladies? You said you
21	had a comment.
22	MR. PIGGEE: Oh, okay. You know what,
23	Steve and Madam Trustee, those ladies have a
24	concern, and I have a concern about the
25	ambulance service that's due out there in the

area. And I know it's not up to you, but the persons that it's up to, can you ever talk to them and get them in a meeting with us and that type of thing?

TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I just gave that whole scenario, Coach Piggee -- or Mr. Piggee. I tried and I'm trying my best to work with them and for them as I am supposed to, but some things don't fall under my jurisdiction, like ambulance services.

We have a memorandum of understanding, which means that contiguous radius have been set. If I call 911 -- because you know it's all combined, it comes from the county. If I call 911, I can get anybody, whoever is closest to the area.

I'm sorry that it took 13 minutes or she had to -- but I just don't think that they're looking at it from the perspective of us being able to afford it. You saw -- from last meeting, when they brought the proposals in, you saw a cost of \$335,000 for a whole year. You look at the budget. Where would be able to put that or pull that from? You saw costs of \$27,000 a month.

1	Now, in order for us to get an ambulance
2	service, we would also have to order a
3	whole or not order, but provide a whole
4	set of additional services in billing. We
5	would have to have somebody on staff who
6	knows, like, the ambulance codes or you
7	know, they're saying, in essence, that they
8	want one ambulance for the what did they
9	say the 5.3 miles, 6-point whatever the
10	mileage was for Cal Township, to sit on the
11	property and just wait for them all day long
12	to give a call because they don't want Gary.
13	They don't want Ross Township, Merrillville.
14	They don't want Griffith. They don't want
15	you know, they just want their own.
16	MR. PIGGEE: Uh-huh.
17	TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Which they believe
18	that the taxes that they pay should fund this
19	sort of service.
20	MR. PIGGEE: But tell me this. Were they
21	in on the referendum as well when it was
22	passed?
23	TRUSTEE ROBINSON: No.
24	MR. DALTON: They have their own school
25	system outside of Gary schools.

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1	TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Right. They're from
2	Lake Ridge.
3	MR. PIGGEE: That's what I needed to
4	know.
5	TRUSTEE ROBINSON: And I also wanted to
6	say on behalf of the whole Griffith situation
7	is that Griffith well, I wanted to ask a
8	question of Steve.
9	Have we for the last seven, almost
10	eight years we've been here, have we kept our
11	budget at about the same, six million, give
12	or take?
13	MR. DALTON: It's down.
14	TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes, I wanted to
15	MR. DALTON: It was maybe
16	eight-and-a-half million when you took over.
17	TRUSTEE ROBINSON: So we've been able to
18	be steady, and we've already been preparing
19	for this day. And with Griffith, the thing
20	that they will not say out loud is that the
21	money that comes is split three ways, Gary
22	civil city, School City of Gary and the
23	Township, and we were not getting the lion's
24	share like or we were not getting the
25	whole package, I should say.

1 So they want people to believe that this is all because of Township and they don't 2 want to give towards, you know, poor me for 3 4 this, but it's beyond us. And I just wanted 5 to make that part clear. When we were down for ITA, I had a 6 7 conversation with Senator Niemeyer who apologized and said he was sorry, you know, 8 9 and he hoped that we could remain friends 10 because, you know, he had to do what he had 11 to do. And I told him again, as my statement 12 will be on Griffith, God bless them, best 13 wishes to them and North Township or wherever 14 they fall. Because we've made our way over 15 here, and we're good. So thank you. 16 MR. PIGGEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. 17 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Anything else? 18 MR. PIGGEE: I'm done. CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: You sure? 19 20 MR. PIGGEE: She's explained everything 21 that I needed to know. 22 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. Ms. Holmes? 23 MS. HOLMES: I feel as though that 24 Calumet Township on its own has been working 25 faithfully and working extra hours and doing

1 a lot of different things, but to stay 2 safe --3 THE REPORTER: I can't hear. Can you 4 speak up. 5 MS. HOLMES: You brought up the subject 6 about finding other ways to keep safe, and I 7 would like to work on that team because I 8 notice at county they posted a sign saying that flu shots will be given in the area, and 9 10 we can call and make reservations, you know, 11 make appointments. So if we just keep on 12 following the protocols and doing what we 13 have to do to work safe. 14 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: We work closely with 15 the Gary Health Department. When we had to 16 go get tests, we were able to call them. 17 have been working before with our warming and 18 cooling centers with Marram Health Care. 19 We're able to call them. Those are the ones 20 that provide the rapid response or rapid 21 testing. So we get the results back, rapid 22 results. 23 So yeah, we just -- again, I just want to 24 keep everyone safe, and I still want to be 25 able to do my job of serving the community.

So I would like that, Ms. Holmes, if you would share because you have a lot of jobs even though you're retired. But you probably got a lot of protocols that you know of, so that'd be great.

MS. HOLMES: That's all.

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: I would like for our attorneys, Deidre Monroe and Attorney Williams, to find out if the board has the authority to vote and put out a certain product regarding safety with COVID. What my belief is is that we can be behind these, but you can't see COVID. And even though you can be behind these, you can still catch it.

My concern is that an employee came in and three people caught COVID because we're not aware of what people do after they leave a job. I always wear a mask everywhere I go.

So my recommendation, if we have the authority to do that as the common council, I don't see why we wouldn't because we're the board, is that people, when they come to this office, should have a mask on for the safety of other people.

People can -- as far as your getting a

shot or not, that's not this issue, because 1 2 some people want to do it, some people don't. 3 But I think the safety factor of having a mask on can eliminate that issue to a certain 5 extent. So Attorney Deidre Monroe, if we have 6 7 that authority, I'm for employees wearing 8 masks while they are serving at the Township. 9 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: So maybe what happened, we had masks, and we still for the 10 11 public coming in we even hand them out if a 12 person doesn't have one if they like one. 13 were kind of letting people with the 14 vaccination if you feel free without it. 15 so we have said to the employees who have not 16 been vaccinated, you got to keep your mask 17 So -- but if you guys would put it in a 18 resolution form that makes it law, kind of, 19 you know, that would be great. 20 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: I just know even if 21 you've been vaccinated, if you believe in 22 that, it doesn't mean you won't catch it. 23 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Right. 24 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: It just means that 25 based on what they say, that it is supposed

to help you fight it off if you do catch it.

TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Uh-huh.

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: There's different philosophies on that, but because people go places and do things and they come back to this office, they're at risk. I don't care if they have been vaccinated or not. That's just the Chairman's belief, and if we have the authority, Attorney Monroe and Attorney Williams, I don't have a problem signing off on a resolution voting on something to keep our employees safe while they are here at work.

It's unfortunate that the precinct committee members from Cal Township got upset and left, but it's unfortunate that when you kind of have your mind made up on certain things, sometimes you don't really listen.

And it was articulated at the last meeting as of now that -- and I don't put blame on anybody, but it was made clear that the County Council has that authority to get funding and money to help with that ambulatory service.

Now, Lake Ridge, based on what they want

to do and based on what I was told by

Commissioner Repay, that money was available,
which according to what Attorney Williams
says, I don't believe that the trustees have
a reason to provocate a story by a county
councilperson.

And my understanding is that one of the
ladies that was here had been in touch with

And my understanding is that one of the ladies that was here had been in touch with Councilman Menchaca. My problem with that is this -- and I don't play politics. But she's been on the phone with him, talking with him. He was supposed to be at this last meeting. He didn't show up because he was at another meeting, sitting on the panel about some economic development that came in Gary that had nothing to do with the county. And he -- and if I'm not mistaken, has he been in contact with you, Madam Trustee?

ROBINSON: No, no, sir.

is Councilman Menchaca's area, but I have a problem when people come here and they put a responsibility on the Trustee's Office or this Board that has been clear, even Charlie

Brown came and told us that it is not his

area and he would talk to Councilman Menchaca.

For those people who don't understand how county government works, legislation for appropriations and money come from the County Council. And one of our persons that was here had been in contact with him and had several conversations with him. So I don't want to speak for him, but again, the county -- as Attorney Rinzer Williams said, the money has been found.

So at this point in time Cal Township, the Trustee, the Board cannot do anything regarding ambulatory services. And again, I understand her pain and frustration because, you know, I take care of my dad, who's 85, and you know -- but this has been a problem that has been festering for a while.

And I'm going to be honest, and the
Trustee can correct me if I'm wrong, since my
almost eight years on the board, this is like
the first time I remember that this has
literally like been an issue that has been
brought to us from Cal Township or Griffith
about ambulatory services.

TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Right.

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: So something like this has been going on for a minute. So again, I send prayers and speedy recovery to her parent that she had to use an ambulatory service for. That's it.

Attorney Monroe, do you have anything you'd like to add?

ATTORNEY MONROE: I think there has to be a comment for Trustee or for the Board, I've been hearing discussions about the American Rescue Plan, and I think it needs to be clear to people that Township has not received any funds for that.

TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Right. The first -in the first set, we did receive from the
county because we requested, and we also
requested it again, and I've also made a
request to the Gary City Council that I was
thinking \$75,000, if they could give us
something.

I talked to the president, Godwin, about that. And so he was like, you know, if they had some discussions going, he would certainly ask because, you know, as things

have gone, we have still helped with rents.

We have still helped with utilities for Gary
citizens.

We haven't had a lot of the -- we haven't had any of the money from the rent, that state program that they was doing. There was like a lot -- a whole lot of paperwork to that. So I was feeling like that's something that we already do, so there was no need to get into any extra funding or whatever it was called. But our highest -- still our highest expenditures still remains with NIPSCO.

And we have gone up, as well, on burials, which in -- from the ITA this weekend or this past week we had some more discussions because we want to make sure that we are handling burials as the State -- the State says that, you know, there's a lot of what this Township does versus -- we do give the highest out of the eleven townships in Lake County. We do give the highest amounts, but I think that's always been, because we're one of the larger ones.

So but even just next door, in North, they don't, you know, do, so we may be making

some changes towards that. We certainly don't want to, you know, not be fair to our community, but the community is going to be fair to itself, and there probably needs to be a great discussion on people being able to get reasonable policies because, you know, it's just the fact of life.

MR. PIGGEE: Well, Madam Trustee, how do you determine how much money a person can get for burial?

TRUSTEE ROBINSON: We have it set. We have it set. When we got here, it was \$1,700, and a family could contribute up to \$1,000, but since then, it's even became hard for families to even get that much. We just said we'll make it a flat \$2,700, and whatever the funeral home is willing -- you know, they're supposed to accept this because this person is supposed to be indigent. They're not supposed to leave away there with a bill or leave away there with everything not paid for.

But from what I understand, the burial is the most expensive part because now there is -- which was the cheapest cemetery, you

have to pay like \$1,200 up front, which is for the grave, the digging of the grave and the headstone.

MR. PIGGEE: Right.

TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Because I understand, too, from some of the funeral directors in the area, the cemeteries are running out of room, so they have started like double graves. And a lot of people don't agree with that.

We talked about cremation, but that's against religion, but we found out that we can offer cremation or we cannot -- not necessarily force, but offer it first. And unless you have something in writing of your religion or your religious belief as to why you cannot have a cremation, you must accept the cremation that the Township is willing to pay for or that we can afford to pay for.

Could you imagine \$2,700, you know, like five or six bodies every month. That can add up. That's why I think one time Mr. Dalton was like, what's going on with the burials for -- you know, because -- and that is one of our duties. And we have cemeteries, but

they've been abandoned. And if I even thought that I wanted to open it again, that's more staff, that's some real, like, understanding that someone would have to give about, you know, digging a grave or how close and headstones. And the ones we have are not even that big, so we could not be able to help in that sense.

MR. PIGGEE: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Well, I know that burials can be anywhere from five to \$10,000, so I agree with that, when it comes to creation, that needs to be on the table as an option. Because when you said 17 to 27, I thought that was the cremation.

TRUSTEE ROBINSON: No.

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: And it depends.

You know, the funeral homes are going to have
to step up, too, and work with the families
because --

TRUSTEE ROBINSON: When we first -- I

didn't mean to cut you off, but we had a

discussion with all the funeral directors in

the area and said this is -- you know, and

they thought we were coming to tell them that

we would be give them more. But most -we found out in just talking to other
townships, like in Portage they give you
\$400 and tell you God bless. You know what
I'm saying.

But we know that there might be some kind of outcry if we changed, you know, some of the things that we've always done. But if we can no longer afford it, like the EMS, that may be something that we would have to consider.

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Right.

TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Because it's an indigent person. And I'm not saying -- I was asking the funeral homes to come up with a way that we can give them the most dignified burial that, you know, an indigent person could get for \$2,700, and they all told me okay, they understood that. But now they're complaining because the cemeteries are coming for them, and they're not making much money off of it, but it's their decision if they take Township funding.

So it should be mostly -- it probably used to go more towards like people --

unclaimed bodies, you know, at the morgue, 1 2 maybe some people who have died in jail, some 3 things like that. But now it's just, you know, unfortunate that people don't, you know, prepare for this day. 5 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yeah. Because I 6 know when my mom passed away, the first thing 7 the funeral asked me was like, what is your 8 life insurance? And I said, no, what is your 9 10 rates? And then at that point -- because you 11 don't need to know. And I think some of 12 those funeral homes probably look at our 13 budget and saw, oh, yeah. 14 No, it don't work like that. We're 15 trying to provide a respectful burial at a 16 certain price, and you're playing on folks' 17 emotions and things like that. 18 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Right. 19 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All right. 20 more questions before we adjourn? 21 MR. PIGGEE: No. 22 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All right. 23 would entertain -- or not entertain -- make 24 a motion for adjournment of the meeting 25 tonight. All in favor signify by saying

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              aye.
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                   THE BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.
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                   CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Hearing no nays,
              the ayes have it.
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                   Thank you and have a good evening.
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                   (MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 6:55 PM.)
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STATE OF INDIANA
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                          ) SS:
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    COUNTY OF LAKE
 3
              THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
 4
                         GARY, INDIANA
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 6
 7
                     REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
 8
              I, KRISTEN K. STOKES, CSR, Notary Public in
 9
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 13th day of October, 2021.
19
20
21
    /s/ Kristen K. Stokes
    KRISTEN K. STOKES
22
    CSR# 084-003723
23
    My Commission Expires: 8/27/23
    County of Residence: Lake
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2	) SS: COUNTY OF LAKE )
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4	THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
5	GARY, INDIANA
6	50 -
7	These minutes of the Calumet Township Board
8	meeting held on September 27, 2021, were approved by
9	the Board of Trustees on the 18th day of
10	October, 2021.
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14	Darren Washington, Board Chairman
15	No. 1 collection
16	Gogleber Withfree
17	Jacqueline Holmes, Board Secretary
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20	James Piggee, Board Member
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    STATE OF INDIANA )
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    COUNTY OF LAKE
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             THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
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             These minutes of the Calumet Township Board
 8
    meeting held on September 27, 2021, were approved by
    the Board of Trustees on the _____ day of
 9
10
        , 2021.
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    Darren Washington, Board Chairman
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    Jacqueline Holmes, Board Secretary
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    James Piggee, Board Member
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	adjournment (1)	10:7	5:5	47:21
\$	51:24	annual (1)	AV (1)	billing (1)
	Administration (6)	4:21	12:2	36:4
\$1,000 (1)	6:23;7:21;8:9;9:5;	apologized (1)	available (3)	bit (3)
47:14	11:11;19:13	38:8	8:7;21:19;43:2	7:10;11:9,13
\$1,200 (1)	administrative (1) 9:10	appearances (1) 3:23	AVs (1) 12:8	blame (1) 42:20
48:1	affected (1)	appears (1)	aware (1)	bless (2)
\$1,700 (1)	10:5	32:14	40:17	38:12;50:4
47:13	afford (3)	appointments (1)	away (3)	BOARD (27)
\$1,750,000 (2) 6:23;8:9	35:20;48:19;50:9	39:11	47:20,21;51:7	3:1,4,15;4:1;5:10;
\$1,823,000 (2)	again (9)	appreciate (4)	aye (2)	6:9;8:7,14;10:16;
6:25;8:10	25:23;38:11;39:23;	21:3;32:19;34:16,	52:1,2	18:23;19:13;24:7,23
\$10,000 (1)	43:20;44:9,14;45:4,	17	ayes (1)	25:6,9;28:5,15;
49:11	18;49:2	appropriations (1)	52:4	31:13;33:2,11;40:9
\$100,000 (2)	against (1)	44:5	D	22;43:24;44:13,21;
7:6,22	48:12	approval (4)	В	45:10;52:2
\$2,013,000 (2)	ago (5)	3:17;5:15;28:5,10	hadr (9)	bodies (2)
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