

**In The Matter Of:**  
*Before the Calumet Township*  
**LOCAL BOARD OF FINANCE**

---

*January 4, 2022*

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

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Min-U-Script® with Word Index

1 STATE OF INDIANA)  
2 )SS:  
3 COUNTY OF LAKE )  
4

5 BEFORE THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP  
6 LOCAL BOARD OF FINANCE  
7 GARY, INDIANA

8 REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had at the meeting  
9 before the Calumet Township Local Board of Finance,  
10 reported by Beth A. Barnette, CSR and Notary Public,  
11 Illinois License No. 084-004727, at the Calumet  
12 Township Trustee Building, 610 Connecticut Street,  
13 Gary, Indiana, on the 4th day of January, 2022, at  
14 6:19 o'clock in the evening.  
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APPEARANCES:

Darren Washington, Board Chairman

Jacqueline Holmes, Board Member/Secretary

James Piggee, Board Member

Sharita Smith, Chief Deputy

Kimberly Robinson, Township Trustee

Toyka Cunningham, Executive Secretary

Daryl Jones, Board Attorney by Proxy

Rinzer Williams, III, Township Attorney

Daniel Dalton, Financial Advisor

and

Members of the Public

\* \* \*

1                   CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: The Chair  
2                   calls to order the meeting of the Local Board  
3                   of Finance for 2022, Indiana Code 5-13-7-6.  
4                   The first item is Election of  
5                   President and Secretary of the Local Board of  
6                   Finance for 2022 Fiscal Year.  
7                   The Chairman makes a motion to elect  
8                   President Darren Washington and Secretary  
9                   Jacqueline Holmes by acclimation. Is there a  
10                  second?  
11                  MR. FIGGEE: Second.  
12                  CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All in favor  
13                  signify by saying aye.  
14                  (Board members saying "aye" in  
15                  unison.)  
16                  CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Thank you.  
17                  Congratulations, Ms. Holmes.  
18                  MS. HOLMES: Thank you.  
19                  CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: The next item  
20                  is Resolution 2022-01, Acceptance of Board of  
21                  Finance Report for Year-End 2021. Madam  
22                  Trustee or --  
23                  TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I will defer to  
24                  Mr. Daniel Dalton of Cender & Cender.  
25                  CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yeah, I was

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1 about to say Steve got awful young.

2 MR. DALTON: It's nice to meet you  
3 all. You should have -- I believe I put one  
4 of these finance reports in front of each of  
5 you guys. Every year Indiana townships have  
6 to meet on the first Tuesday after the first  
7 Monday of the year and, basically, review  
8 earnings from the prior year. And so we made  
9 a little report, which basically -- well, I  
10 can just start going through it.

11 So if you look at page 1, I broke  
12 down into earnings by fund for the last decade  
13 and also broke it down by the bank that each  
14 fund is deposited into. So this is the only  
15 part of the report that's required to look at.  
16 If you want to flip through the next few  
17 pages, you can. You don't actually have to,  
18 but we just figured we'd put something in here  
19 that shows you a good year-end sort of  
20 structure of how the Township looks.

21 We have fund balances on page 2, for  
22 the (Inaudible) funds. We have property taxes  
23 levied and collected on page 3, and percent of  
24 collections for each year for the last six  
25 years. On page 4, we have schedule of tax

1 rates. For 2022, we don't have the individual  
2 unit's tax rates yet because we haven't  
3 received the certified tax units, but here in  
4 the next week or two we should receive that.  
5 But you can see the Township breakdown of  
6 taxes compared to the last few years. On page  
7 5, we have a schedule of historical assessed  
8 valuations, just so that you can see the  
9 incremental growth we've had over the last six  
10 years.

11 And with that, that sums up my part.  
12 If anyone has any questions, please feel free  
13 to ask.

14 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: And this is  
15 also reflective of the cessation of Griffith.

16 MR. DALTON: Not yet. We don't have  
17 an accurate number for 2022.

18 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Right, but  
19 those numbers reflect that.

20 MR. DALTON: Right.

21 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: But I'd like to  
22 just say, if you go to page 4, and where it  
23 has like the total tax rate and you see all of  
24 that, Gary Community, Lake Ridge, Lake  
25 Station, that's how our money was split.

1                   CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

2                   TRUSTEE ROBINSON: So when Griffith  
3 says that, you know, this is going to be  
4 Calumet Township, this is not a part of that,  
5 you know, coming or going to those other  
6 entities listed as well.

7                   CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: And let me say  
8 this, kudos to you, because one of the  
9 reasons, and I think people need to know, one  
10 of the reasons why we were trying to fight to  
11 work with Griffith is because we knew that  
12 them leaving would affect these other taxing  
13 units. So a lot of people didn't look at  
14 that, and so -- well, it is what it is. But  
15 you guys did a great job in working with the  
16 Trustee and helping making sure the budget was  
17 balanced, and everything.

18                   MR. DALTON: Thank you. Thank you  
19 very much.

20                   CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Are there any  
21 questions by Board members regarding the  
22 report? Mr. Piggee?

23                   MR. PIGGEE: No, Mr. Chairman.

24                   CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Ms. Holmes?

25                   MS. HOLMES: No, Mr. Chairman.

1                   CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: The Chairman  
2 makes a motion to approve Resolution 2022-01,  
3 the Board Finance Report for Year-End 2021.  
4 Is there a second?

5                   MR. PIGGEE: Second.

6                   CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Roll call,  
7 Ms. Cunningham.

8                   MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Piggee?

9                   MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

10                  MS. CUNNINGHAM: Ms. Holmes?

11                  MS. HOLMES: Yes.

12                  MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Washington?

13                  CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes. With  
14 three yeas, the resolution passes.

15                  Item No. 3, Public Comments. Is  
16 there anyone in the public that would like to  
17 make a comment?

18                  MS. WHITE: I have a question for  
19 the Board and maybe Madam Trustee.

20                  CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Could you  
21 speak up and state your name for the record.

22                  MS. WHITE: My name is Jackie White,  
23 for the record. My question to the Board and  
24 Madam Trustee, how bad did it cripple, if  
25 anything, the Township? I think the newspaper

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1           said there was a \$3 million value with  
2           Griffith breaking away, or was that wrong?

3                   TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Well, the  
4           newspaper has always been on Griffith's side  
5           to inflate it. So we won't be crippled at all  
6           because we've known that this day was coming.  
7           So we've been preparing since I've been here.  
8           I got here in 2015. So each year we've made  
9           the necessary cuts, we've saved, we've saved.  
10          We have the ability to borrow from ourselves,  
11          and so we're at a point where we've leveled  
12          out as best we can. We kept our levies low  
13          and borrowed, you know, little to none just  
14          from ourselves just to keep going. So, we'll  
15          be fine.

16                   MS. WHITE: Okay.

17                   TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Services won't be  
18          cut. People will not go without because  
19          Griffith is gone.

20                   MS. WHITE: Okay. That's all I  
21          wanted to know.

22                   CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Let me add to  
23          that too, because it takes a team effort by  
24          other municipal governments. What I mean by  
25          that, the Trustee's responsibility is to

1 provide temporary relief who need it, but also  
2 I'm hoping that our city can use money wisely  
3 and create economic development and jobs so  
4 that people won't have to rely as much on the  
5 Township. And as we begin and the City begins  
6 to bring jobs, you have money that comes from  
7 the casino now, I'm hoping that the  
8 administration can use that to bring jobs to  
9 the area.

10 And again, one of the reasons why  
11 Trustee and we were trying to prevent this was  
12 because we knew it would do something to the  
13 Lake Ridge schools, the municipal city. But  
14 again, unfortunately -- and I say this, we  
15 didn't get much help from those entities in  
16 trying to get -- and if I'm incorrect, correct  
17 me when I'm wrong, we didn't get much help  
18 from the entities, from the elected officials,  
19 the municipal city, in talking with Griffith.  
20 We bent over backwards and expressed to them  
21 and the other taxing units how it would affect  
22 them.

23 But, ultimately, at the end of the  
24 day, our accountants and Trustee did a great  
25 job. And it just seems like yesterday. This

1 year being the end of, what, almost seven  
2 years, right, and as soon as Kim won, she  
3 started a plan on saving and making sure  
4 because of what was going on downstate. It  
5 was happening every year. And so we had told  
6 the public that when it came, the taxing units  
7 will be affected, but also our mayor and the  
8 city and what they're doing, what they're  
9 doing in administration, they need to make  
10 sure our community is growing, get jobs, get  
11 developments, because that takes a lot of  
12 pressure off the Trustee. And especially in  
13 the wintertime with high rates, and things  
14 like that, that adds up. We only have so  
15 much.

16 So we kind of need the other  
17 municipalities, the school district, the city,  
18 and it's not saying -- you know, I know  
19 Mr. Piggee comes to meetings about supporting  
20 stuff, but we need our children educated. We  
21 need them doing everything that they can get  
22 done so they can be educated and come back to  
23 the community. We need the city definitely  
24 looking at every area they can to bring  
25 development to this community. So we'll see

1           what the administration is going to do.

2                       But the Township has done a great  
3           job in making sure that people who come  
4           here -- and one of the things we talked about  
5           is the fact that we have people that will just  
6           come over to this community and don't live  
7           here and there's nothing we can do to prevent  
8           them from getting services. So the rumor is,  
9           the word is, if you come over here to Calumet  
10          Township, you can get everything and they  
11          can't stop you. And that takes away from it.  
12          So we're continuing to work with our  
13          municipalities and other entities to make  
14          sure. But as far as the job of the Trustee,  
15          the office has done a great job in taking care  
16          of those needs for the people. Great  
17          question. Thank you.

18                      MR. PIGGEE: Mr. Chair, can I add  
19          something to that?

20                      CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes, go ahead.

21                      MR. PIGGEE: Ms. White, one thing  
22          about the Calumet Township Trustee, they were  
23          there when people needed food. They did  
24          baskets, they had giveaways, coat giveaways,  
25          and these types of things. So they were

1 always there visible to the people of this  
2 area. The Griffith, the Gary, whoever --  
3 Calumet Township, they've been very visible  
4 and that's what I saw and I love it. Thank  
5 you, Mr. Chair.

6 MS. WHITE: If I could just  
7 piggyback off Mr. Piggee's comments. Kudos to  
8 you, honestly, Madam Trustee. To his point,  
9 you have been the most visible trustee of them  
10 all and you have made Gary very proud.

11 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Thank you.

12 MS. WHITE: You've done a great job.  
13 I have two other brief questions. No,  
14 honestly, the food giveaways, and stuff, every  
15 week, the coats, it's been awesome. So thank  
16 you. The Hard Rock casino, is any of that  
17 money earmarked to help support the Trustee's  
18 Office here?

19 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: No.

20 MS. WHITE: None of it.

21 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: No.

22 MR. PIGGEE: I can say this,  
23 Ms. White, coming right by the casino, that's  
24 the busiest truck highway in the world.

25 MS. WHITE: Yes, sir.

1                   MR. PIGGEE: And I mean it should  
2                   make beaucoup of money. As soon as they put  
3                   that hotel up there, there's going to be  
4                   beaucoup of money and then we'll look at that  
5                   and then we will have a fight, because they're  
6                   going to make so much money, and we would love  
7                   for them to give us something. Isn't that  
8                   right, Miss Trustee?

9                   TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I'm not sure.  
10                  They don't really include us because we're  
11                  more so included with the County if we needed  
12                  something, because that's the level of  
13                  government. We probably could. I have spoken  
14                  with council members about their ARC money and  
15                  they are trying to work for some of the things  
16                  we've done. Like with the warming center, we  
17                  helped a lot last year, and this year, out at  
18                  our shelter. So they're trying to see if they  
19                  can donate some funds because we got nothing  
20                  from -- you know, the County did reimburse us  
21                  for a few things, but not as much as we asked.  
22                  But, yeah, there's like some stinginess going  
23                  on with all that.

24                  MR. PIGGEE: Okay. Okay.

25                  MS. WHITE: All right. My final

1 question. I was a former employee of NIPSCO.  
2 I left and went on to ComEd. I'm just curious  
3 with the assistance that we provide to the  
4 community with NIPSCO, just as a learning for  
5 me, is that an actual partnership or how does  
6 that work?

7 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: No, the Township  
8 is an actual customer. That's like our  
9 largest giveaway is NIPSCO. Our most costly  
10 bill is NIPSCO. People come and they apply  
11 for help with their bill. We've had a lot of  
12 people who have come once the moratorium was  
13 over from the first COVID, and now I think  
14 they're on moratorium again, but they lost a  
15 lot of funding, which I argued back and forth  
16 with them, because we never stopped paying.

17 So all of this trying to recoupe  
18 their penalties and fees, I told them, you  
19 know, we're not a part of that because we  
20 never stopped paying you. And we pay for a  
21 lot of people -- our biggest expenditure,  
22 that's what I'm trying to say. We pay for a  
23 lot of people throughout our community with  
24 very high bills.

25 MS. WHITE: And during that time did

1 they cut you a break, the Trustee's Office?

2 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Well, we don't  
3 pay taxes or late fees. We just pay like  
4 purely the bill. But I am working with the  
5 new young lady who is their community  
6 outreach. We had a few events this past  
7 holiday and she's asking that we please get  
8 together and see how that can work out.

9 MS. WHITE: Thank you.

10 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Madam Trustee,  
12 you're next.

13 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: No, I don't have  
14 anything else to say. I'm good. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Board  
16 Comments. Mr. Piggee?

17 MR. PIGGEE: I think this year,  
18 2022, is going to be another fantastic year  
19 for the Township. There's the election in  
20 May, and Ms. Robinson, Mr. Washington,  
21 Ms. Holmes, we're all back on the ballot, and  
22 I think it would be fantastic for us all to be  
23 re-elected. That's what I have to say.

24 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Thank you,  
25 Mr. Piggee. Ms. Holmes?



1 MS. HOLMES: I'm with you on that.

2 MR. PIGGEE: Thank you, Ms. Holmes.

3 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Thank you.

4 Ms. White, I want to go back to your question  
5 number two, and I speak emphatically on this  
6 because I think economic times calls for our  
7 community leaders, but especially our elected  
8 officials, to kind of meet, even if it's done  
9 by social media, on a monthly basis, because  
10 what concerns me or something I shared with  
11 members of the administration and explained to  
12 them what we do at the Township. There seems  
13 to be -- and I know the Trustee talks to  
14 council members, but people need to understand  
15 separation of powers. You have administration  
16 and you have the council. Council has their  
17 responsibility to checks and balances for the  
18 administration.

19 So when I say administration, I  
20 don't speak for the council. I'm talking  
21 about the administration. And with the money  
22 that comes in through the administration, I  
23 think it is imperative that the administration  
24 talks to this administration to find out what  
25 can be done by way of a potential ordinance,

1 or something. Because, again, yes, the County  
2 does certain things, but a lot they don't do  
3 what they should do, to a certain extent. I'm  
4 not saying they don't help, but we've had  
5 situations where they've looked by the book at  
6 ways to find out, oh, well, it says this, so  
7 we're not going to help. But Cal Township, a  
8 majority of the assistance comes from  
9 residents from Gary, okay, and working with  
10 the jobs program that's in Cal Township.

11 Administration, since they're trying  
12 to bring development, there needs to be a  
13 better working relationship. I don't speak  
14 for the Trustee, but what I know in our seven  
15 years there really has not been, since the new  
16 administration has come in, a working  
17 relationship. And I may be wrong, but I  
18 haven't heard of a relationship where the city  
19 is saying, hey, let's look at doing some  
20 set-aside because of the COVID, because of  
21 what's going on, moneys may happen. And I  
22 think, to a certain extent, Trustee -- and we  
23 talk to our legislature.

24 So you have your administration, the  
25 Trustee's Office, and legislatures. We got to

1 find some way in 2022 that all entities that's  
2 elected can come together to discuss, in our  
3 own areas where we're responsible, how each  
4 area can help each other out, and for some  
5 reason that is not happening. As an elected  
6 Democrat -- and I just say as a Democrat, our  
7 city chairman is responsible for making that  
8 happen. So I'm hoping in 2022 there is a plan  
9 for him, as the chairman of our party and the  
10 leader of our city, to make things like that  
11 happen. And I remember years ago when Kim was  
12 on the council, we had all these different  
13 groups that was kind of meeting, but kind of  
14 working together. We need to get on that.

15 And I can give you an example. I  
16 was talking with the councilwoman of the  
17 Fourth District, Tai Adkins, a friend of ours  
18 grandmother, there was a fire and she was  
19 burned out. Well, of course, the office  
20 helped out as much as we could, but again,  
21 from the 4th District, and like I told her,  
22 there's only so much that Kim is able to do.  
23 We need to try to build something with  
24 administration also in working with us to  
25 bring those funds in.

1                   Because a lot of times you will see  
2                   when the session starts, there's going to be  
3                   legislation that's always going to be  
4                   adversary to what we're trying to do here. So  
5                   I think that if we can do a better job. It  
6                   just seems everybody outside of Gary works  
7                   together except for us in Gary. And so I put  
8                   that on the onus of our head administrators  
9                   and the head of our party to get that ball  
10                  rolling.

11                  So with that being said, I want to  
12                  thank everybody for coming out. Oh, you know  
13                  what, I wasn't able to amend the agenda. So  
14                  we'll bring it back at the next meeting, and I  
15                  want to give Mr. Piggee a chance to be able to  
16                  read it in its entirety. So we can bring that  
17                  back at the next meeting, because at the end  
18                  of the day, this bill ain't going nowhere and  
19                  the rates aren't going nowhere. If we pass it  
20                  today or tomorrow, it's still going to be the  
21                  same.

22                  So with that being said, the Chair  
23                  makes a motion for adjournment for tonight's  
24                  meeting. Is there a second?

25                  MR. PIGGEE: Second.

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CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All in favor  
say aye.

(Board members saying "aye" in  
unison.)

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: The meeting is  
adjourned. Have a blessed 2022 and stay safe  
out there.

(Proceedings concluded at  
6:37 p.m.)

\* \* \*

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

3  
4 BEFORE THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP  
5 LOCAL BOARD OF FINANCE  
6 GARY, INDIANA

7 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

8 I, Beth A. Barnette, CSR and Notary  
9 Public, do hereby certify that I reported in machine  
10 shorthand the foregoing proceedings had in the  
11 above-entitled matter, at the time and place herein  
12 before set forth; and I do further certify that the  
13 foregoing transcript, consisting of twenty (20)  
14 typewritten pages, is a true and correct  
15 transcript of my said stenographic notes, to the  
16 best of my ability.

17 Signed this 20th day of January,  
18 2022.

19  
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21  
22  
23 *Beth Barnette*

24 BETH A. BARNETTE, CSR  
25 Notary Public  
My Commission Expires: 6/13/22

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STATE OF INDIANA)  
  )SS:  
COUNTY OF LAKE )

THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP  
LOCAL BOARD OF FINANCE  
GARY, INDIANA

These minutes of the Calumet Township  
Local Board of Finance meeting held on January 4,  
2022, were approved by the Board on the 4<sup>th</sup>  
day of January, 2022.

Darren Washington  
Darren Washington, Board Chairman

Jaqueline Holmes  
Jaqueline Holmes, Board Secretary

James Figgee  
James Figgee, Board Member

Before the Calumet Township  
LOCAL BOARD OF FINANCE

January 4, 2022

	19:13	17:13;19:5	Cender (2)	14:9
\$	apply (1)	biggest (1)	3:24,24	council (6)
\$3 (1)	14:10	14:21	center (1)	13:14;16:14,16,16,
8:1	approve (1)	bill (4)	13:16	20;18:12
A	7:2	14:10,11;15:4;	certain (3)	councilwoman (1)
ability (1)	ARC (1)	19:18	17:2,3,22	18:16
8:10	13:14	bills (1)	certified (1)	County (3)
able (3)	area (4)	14:24	5:3	13:11,20;17:1
18:22;19:13,15	9:9;10:24;12:2;	blessed (1)	cessation (1)	course (1)
Acceptance (1)	18:4	20:6	5:15	18:19
3:20	areas (1)	Board (10)	Chair (4)	COVID (2)
acclimation (1)	18:3	3:2,5,14,20;6:21;	3:1;11:18;12:5;	14:13;17:20
3:9	argued (1)	7:3,19,23;15:15;20:3	19:22	create (1)
accountants (1)	14:15	book (1)	CHAIRMAN (29)	9:3
9:24	assessed (1)	17:5	3:1,7,12,16,19,25;	cripple (1)
accurate (1)	5:7	borrow (1)	5:14,18;6:1,7,20,23,	7:24
5:17	assistance (2)	8:10	24,25;7:1,1,6,13,20;	crippled (1)
actual (2)	14:3;17:8	borrowed (1)	8:22;11:20;15:11,15,	8:5
14:5,8	away (2)	8:13	24;16:3;18:7,9;20:1,	Cunningham (4)
actually (1)	8:2;11:11	break (1)	5	7:7,8,10,12
4:17	awesome (1)	15:1	chance (1)	curious (1)
add (2)	12:15	breakdown (1)	19:15	14:2
8:22;11:18	awful (1)	5:5	checks (1)	customer (1)
adds (1)	4:1	breaking (1)	16:17	14:8
10:14	aye (4)	8:2	children (1)	cut (2)
adjourned (1)	3:13,14;20:2,3	brief (1)	10:20	8:18;15:1
20:6	B	12:13	city (10)	cuts (1)
adjournment (1)	back (6)	bring (7)	9:2,5,13,19;10:8,	8:9
19:23	10:22;14:15;15:21;	9:6,8;10:24;17:12;	17,23;17:18;18:7,10	D
Adkins (1)	16:4;19:14,17	18:25;19:14,16	coat (1)	Dalton (5)
18:17	backwards (1)	broke (2)	11:24	3:24;4:2;5:16,20;
administration (15)	9:20	4:11,13	coats (1)	6:18
9:8;10:9;11:1;	bad (1)	budget (1)	12:15	Daniel (1)
16:11,15,18,19,21,22,	7:24	6:16	Code (1)	3:24
23,24;17:11,16,24;	balanced (1)	build (1)	3:3	Darren (1)
18:24	6:17	18:23	collected (1)	3:8
administrators (1)	balances (2)	burned (1)	4:23	day (3)
19:8	4:21;16:17	18:19	collections (1)	8:6;9:24;19:18
adversary (1)	ball (1)	busiest (1)	4:24	decade (1)
19:4	19:9	12:24	ComEd (1)	4:12
affect (2)	ballot (1)	C	14:2	defer (1)
6:12;9:21	15:21	Cal (2)	6:5;8:6;12:23;	3:23
affected (1)	bank (1)	17:7,10	19:12	definitely (1)
10:7	4:13	call (1)	comment (1)	10:23
again (5)	basically (2)	7:6	7:17	Democrat (2)
9:10,14;14:14;	4:7,9	calls (2)	7:15;12:7;15:16	18:6,6
17:1;18:20	basis (1)	3:2;16:6	Community (9)	deposited (1)
agenda (1)	16:9	Calumet (4)	5:24;10:10,23,25;	4:14
19:13	baskets (1)	6:4;11:9,22;12:3	11:6;14:4,23;15:5;	development (3)
ago (1)	11:24	came (1)	16:7	9:3;10:25;17:12
18:11	beaucoup (2)	10:6	compared (1)	developments (1)
ahead (1)	13:2,4	can (22)	5:6	10:11
11:20	begin (1)	4:10,17;5:5,8;8:12;	concerns (1)	different (1)
ain't (1)	9:5	9:2,8;10:21,22,24;	16:10	18:12
19:18	begins (1)	11:7,10,18;12:22;	concluded (1)	discuss (1)
almost (1)	9:5	13:19;15:8;16:25;	20:8	18:2
10:1	bent (1)	18:2,4,15;19:5,16	Congratulations (1)	district (3)
always (3)	9:20	care (1)	3:17	10:17;18:17,21
8:4;12:1;19:3	best (1)	11:15	continuing (1)	donate (1)
amend (1)	8:12	casino (3)	11:12	13:19
	better (2)	9:7;12:16,23	costly (1)	done (7)



Before the Calumet Township  
LOCAL BOARD OF FINANCE

January 4, 2022

10:22;11:2,15; 12:12;13:16;16:8,25 <b>down (2)</b> 4:12,13 <b>downstate (1)</b> 10:4 <b>during (1)</b> 14:25	<b>fact (1)</b> 11:5 <b>fantastic (2)</b> 15:18,22 <b>far (1)</b> 11:14 <b>favor (2)</b> 3:12;20:1 <b>feel (1)</b> 5:12 <b>fees (2)</b> 14:18;15:3 <b>few (4)</b> 4:16;5:6;13:21; 15:6 <b>fight (2)</b> 6:10;13:5 <b>figured (1)</b> 4:18 <b>final (1)</b> 13:25 <b>Finance (5)</b> 3:3,6,21;4:4;7:3 <b>find (3)</b> 16:24;17:6;18:1 <b>fine (1)</b> 8:15 <b>fire (1)</b> 18:18 <b>first (4)</b> 3:4;4:6,6;14:13 <b>Fiscal (1)</b> 3:6 <b>flip (1)</b> 4:16 <b>food (2)</b> 11:23;12:14 <b>former (1)</b> 14:1 <b>forth (1)</b> 14:15 <b>Fourth (1)</b> 18:17 <b>free (1)</b> 5:12 <b>friend (1)</b> 18:17 <b>front (1)</b> 4:4 <b>fund (3)</b> 4:12,14,21 <b>funding (1)</b> 14:15 <b>funds (3)</b> 4:22;13:19;18:25	<b>giveaways (3)</b> 11:24,24;12:14 <b>good (2)</b> 4:19;15:14 <b>government (1)</b> 13:13 <b>governments (1)</b> 8:24 <b>grandmother (1)</b> 18:18 <b>great (6)</b> 6:15;9:24;11:2,15, 16;12:12 <b>Griffith (7)</b> 5:15;6:2,11;8:2,19; 9:19;12:2 <b>Griffith's (1)</b> 8:4 <b>groups (1)</b> 18:13 <b>growing (1)</b> 10:10 <b>growth (1)</b> 5:9 <b>guys (2)</b> 4:5;6:15	9:2,7;18:8 <b>hotel (1)</b> 13:3 <b>I</b> <b>imperative (1)</b> 16:23 <b>Inaudible (1)</b> 4:22 <b>include (1)</b> 13:10 <b>included (1)</b> 13:11 <b>incorrect (1)</b> 9:16 <b>incremental (1)</b> 5:9 <b>Indiana (2)</b> 3:3;4:5 <b>individual (1)</b> 5:1 <b>inflate (1)</b> 8:5 <b>into (2)</b> 4:12,14 <b>item (3)</b> 3:4,19;7:15	15:5 <b>Lake (3)</b> 5:24,24;9:13 <b>largest (1)</b> 14:9 <b>last (5)</b> 4:12,24;5:6,9; 13:17 <b>late (1)</b> 15:3 <b>leader (1)</b> 18:10 <b>leaders (1)</b> 16:7 <b>learning (1)</b> 14:4 <b>leaving (1)</b> 6:12 <b>left (1)</b> 14:2 <b>legislation (1)</b> 19:3 <b>legislature (1)</b> 17:23 <b>legislatures (1)</b> 17:25 <b>level (1)</b> 13:12 <b>leveled (1)</b> 8:11 <b>levied (1)</b> 4:23 <b>levies (1)</b> 8:12 <b>listed (1)</b> 6:6 <b>little (2)</b> 4:9;8:13 <b>live (1)</b> 11:6 <b>Local (2)</b> 3:2,5 <b>look (5)</b> 4:11,15;6:13;13:4; 17:19 <b>looked (1)</b> 17:5 <b>looking (1)</b> 10:24 <b>looks (1)</b> 4:20 <b>lost (1)</b> 14:14 <b>lot (9)</b> 6:13;10:11;13:17; 14:11,15,21,23;17:2; 19:1 <b>love (2)</b> 12:4;13:6 <b>low (1)</b> 8:12	
<b>E</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>K</b>	
<b>earmarked (1)</b> 12:17 <b>earnings (2)</b> 4:8,12 <b>economic (2)</b> 9:3;16:6 <b>educated (2)</b> 10:20,22 <b>effort (1)</b> 8:23 <b>elect (1)</b> 3:7 <b>elected (4)</b> 9:18;16:7;18:2,5 <b>Election (2)</b> 3:4;15:19 <b>else (1)</b> 15:14 <b>emphatically (1)</b> 16:5 <b>employee (1)</b> 14:1 <b>end (3)</b> 9:23;10:1;19:17 <b>entirety (1)</b> 19:16 <b>entities (5)</b> 6:6;9:15,18;11:13; 18:1 <b>especially (2)</b> 10:12;16:7 <b>even (1)</b> 16:8 <b>events (1)</b> 15:6 <b>everybody (2)</b> 19:6,12 <b>example (1)</b> 18:15 <b>except (1)</b> 19:7 <b>expenditure (1)</b> 14:21 <b>explained (1)</b> 16:11 <b>expressed (1)</b> 9:20 <b>extent (2)</b> 17:3,22	<b>Gary (6)</b> 5:24;12:2,10;17:9; 19:6,7 <b>giveaway (1)</b> 14:9	<b>happen (3)</b> 17:21;18:8,11 <b>happening (2)</b> 10:5;18:5 <b>Hard (1)</b> 12:16 <b>head (2)</b> 19:8,9 <b>heard (1)</b> 17:18 <b>help (7)</b> 9:15,17;12:17; 14:11;17:4,7;18:4 <b>helped (2)</b> 13:17;18:20 <b>helping (1)</b> 6:16 <b>hey (1)</b> 17:19 <b>high (2)</b> 10:13;14:24 <b>highway (1)</b> 12:24 <b>historical (1)</b> 5:7 <b>holiday (1)</b> 15:7 <b>Holmes (11)</b> 3:9,17,18;6:24,25; 7:10,11;15:21,25; 16:1,2 <b>honestly (2)</b> 12:8,14 <b>hoping (3)</b>	<b>Jackie (1)</b> 7:22 <b>Jacqueline (1)</b> 3:9 <b>job (7)</b> 6:15;9:25;11:3,14, 15;12:12;19:5 <b>jobs (5)</b> 9:3,6,8;10:10; 17:10	<b>keep (1)</b> 8:14 <b>kept (1)</b> 8:12 <b>Kim (3)</b> 10:2;18:11,22 <b>kind (4)</b> 10:16;16:8;18:13, 13 <b>knew (2)</b> 6:11;9:12 <b>known (1)</b> 8:6 <b>kudos (2)</b> 6:8;12:7	<b>L</b> <b>lady (1)</b>
<b>F</b>					

M	N	P	R	S
		20;19;12;20:7 outreach (1) 15:6 outside (1) 19:6 over (5) 5:9;9:20;11:6,9; 14:13 own (1) 18:3	16:15 preparing (1) 8:7 President (2) 3:5,8 pressure (1) 10:12 prevent (2) 9:11;11:7 prior (1) 4:8 probably (1) 13:13 Proceedings (1) 20:8 program (1) 17:10 property (1) 4:22 proud (1) 12:10 provide (2) 9:1;14:3 Public (3) 7:15,16;10:6 purely (1) 15:4 put (4) 4:3,18;13:2;19:7	17:13,17,18 relief (1) 9:1 rely (1) 9:4 remember (1) 18:11 Report (5) 3:21;4:9,15;6:22; 7:3 reports (1) 4:4 required (1) 4:15 residents (1) 17:9 Resolution (3) 3:20;7:2,14 responsibility (2) 8:25;16:17 responsible (2) 18:3,7 review (1) 4:7 Ridge (2) 5:24;9:13 Right (6) 5:18,20;10:2; 12:23;13:8,25 ROBINSON (14) 3:23;5:21;6:2;8:3, 17;12:11,19,21;13: 14:7;15:2,10,13,20
Madam (5) 3:21;7:19,24;12:8; 15:11 majority (1) 17:8 makes (3) 3:7;7:2;19:23 making (4) 6:16;10:3;11:3; 18:7 May (3) 15:20;17:17,21 maybe (1) 7:19 mayor (1) 10:7 mean (2) 8:24;13:1 media (1) 16:9 meet (3) 4:2,6;16:8 meeting (6) 3:2;18:13;19:14, 17,24;20:5 meetings (1) 10:19 members (6) 3:14;6:21;13:14; 16:11,14;20:3 million (1) 8:1 Miss (1) 13:8 Monday (1) 4:7 money (9) 5:25;9:2,6;12:17; 13:2,4,6,14;16:21 moneys (1) 17:21 monthly (1) 16:9 moratorium (2) 14:12,14 more (1) 13:11 most (2) 12:9;14:9 motion (3) 3:7;7:2;19:23 much (9) 6:19;9:4,15,17; 10:15;13:6,21;18:20, 22 municipal (3) 8:24;9:13,19 municipalities (2) 10:17;11:13	name (2) 7:21,22 necessary (1) 8:9 need (10) 6:9;9:1;10:9,16,20, 21,23;16:14;18:14,23 needed (2) 11:23;13:11 needs (2) 11:16;17:12 new (2) 15:5;17:15 newspaper (2) 7:25;8:4 next (6) 3:19;4:16;5:4; 15:12;19:14,17 nice (1) 4:2 NIPSCO (4) 14:1,4,9,10 none (2) 8:13;12:20 nowhere (2) 19:18,19 number (2) 5:17;16:5 numbers (1) 5:19	page (6) 4:11,21,23,25;5:6, 22 pages (1) 4:17 part (4) 4:15;5:11;6:4; 14:19 partnership (1) 14:5 party (2) 18:9;19:9 pass (1) 19:19 passes (1) 7:14 past (1) 15:6 pay (4) 14:20,22;15:3,3 paying (2) 14:16,20 penalties (1) 14:18 people (14) 6:9,13;8:18;9:4; 11:3,5,16,23;12:1; 14:10,12,21,23;16:14 percent (1) 4:23 PIGEE (18) 3:11;6:22,23;7:5,8, 9;10:19;11:18,21; 12:22;13:1,24;15:16, 17,25;16:2;19:15,25 Piggee's (1) 12:7 piggyback (1) 12:7 plan (2) 10:3;18:8 please (2) 5:12;15:7 pm (1) 20:9 point (2) 8:11;12:8 potential (1) 16:25 powers (1)	rate (1) 5:23 rates (4) 5:1,2;10:13;19:19 read (1) 19:16 really (2) 13:10;17:15 reason (1) 18:5 reasons (3) 6:9,10;9:10 receive (1) 5:4 received (1) 5:3 record (2) 7:21,23 recoupe (1) 14:17 re-elected (1) 15:23 reflect (1) 5:19 reflective (1) 5:15 regarding (1) 6:21 reimburse (1) 13:20 relationship (3)	Rock (1) 12:16 Roll (1) 7:6 rolling (1) 19:10 rumor (1) 11:8
	off (2) 10:12;12:7 office (5) 11:15;12:18;15:1; 17:25;18:19 officials (2) 9:18;16:8 once (1) 14:12 one (6) 4:3;6:8,9;9:10; 11:4,21 only (3) 4:14;10:14;18:22 onus (1) 19:8 order (1) 3:2 ordinance (1) 16:25 ours (1) 18:17 ourselves (2) 8:10,14 out (10) 8:12;13:17;15:8; 16:24;17:6;18:4,19,			safe (1) 20:6 same (1) 19:21 saved (2) 8:9,9 saving (1) 10:3 saw (1) 12:4 saying (6) 3:13,14;10:18; 17:4,19;20:3 schedule (2) 4:25;5:7 school (1) 10:17 schools (1) 9:13

Before the Calumet Township  
LOCAL BOARD OF FINANCE

January 4, 2022

second (6) 3:10,11;7:4,5; 19:24,25	stopped (2) 14:16,20	truck (1) 12:24	16:25;18:1	8:8
Secretary (2) 3:5,8	structure (1) 4:20	Trustee (29) 3:22,23;5:21;6:2, 16;7:19,24;8:3,17; 9:11,24;10:12;11:14, 22;12:8,9,11,19,21; 13:8,9;14:7;15:2,10, 11,13;16:13;17:14,22	ways (1) 17:6	2021 (2) 3:21;7:3
seems (3) 9:25;16:12;19:6	stuff (2) 10:20;12:14	sums (1) 5:11	week (2) 5:4;12:15	2022 (8) 3:3,6;5:1,17;15:18; 18:1,8;20:6
separation (1) 16:15	support (1) 12:17	supporting (1) 10:19	what's (1) 17:21	2022-01 (2) 3:20;7:2
Services (2) 8:17;11:8	sure (6) 6:16;10:3,10;11:3, 14;13:9	Trustee's (4) 8:25;12:17;15:1; 17:25	WHITE (15) 7:18,22,22;8:16, 20;11:21;12:6,12,20, 23,25;13:25;14:25; 15:9;16:4	3
session (1) 19:2		try (1) 18:23	wintertime (1) 10:13	3 (2) 4:23;7:15
set-aside (1) 17:20	<b>T</b>	trying (9) 6:10;9:11,16; 13:15,18;14:17,22; 17:11;19:4	wisely (1) 9:2	4
seven (2) 10:1;17:14		Tuesday (1) 4:6	without (1) 8:18	4 (2) 4:25;5:22
shared (1) 16:10	Tai (1) 18:17	two (3) 5:4;12:13;16:5	won (1) 10:2	4th (1) 18:21
shelter (1) 13:18	talk (1) 17:23	types (1) 11:25	word (1) 11:9	5
shows (1) 4:19	talked (1) 11:4		work (5) 6:11;11:12;13:15; 14:6;15:8	5 (1) 5:7
side (1) 8:4	talking (3) 9:19;16:20;18:16	<b>U</b>	working (7) 6:15;15:4;17:9,13, 16;18:14,24	5-13-7-6 (1) 3:3
signify (1) 3:13	talks (2) 16:13,24	ultimately (1) 9:23	works (1) 19:6	6
situations (1) 17:5	tax (4) 4:25;5:2,3,23	unfortunately (1) 9:14	world (1) 12:24	6:37 (1) 20:9
six (2) 4:24;5:9	taxes (3) 4:22;5:6;15:3	unison (2) 3:15;20:4	wrong (3) 8:2;9:17;17:17	
social (1) 16:9	taxing (3) 6:12;9:21;10:6	units (4) 5:3;6:13;9:21;10:6	<b>Y</b>	
soon (2) 10:2;13:2	team (1) 8:23	unit's (1) 5:2	Year (12) 3:6;4:5,7,8,24;8:8; 10:1,5;13:17,17; 15:17,18	
sort (1) 4:19	temporary (1) 9:1	up (4) 5:11;7:21;10:14; 13:3	Year-End (3) 3:21;4:19;7:3	
speak (4) 7:21;16:5,20;17:13	three (1) 7:14	use (2) 9:2,8	years (6) 4:25;5:6,10;10:2; 17:15;18:11	
split (1) 5:25	throughout (1) 14:23	<b>V</b>	yeas (1) 7:14	
spoken (1) 13:13	times (2) 16:6;19:1	valuations (1) 5:8	yesterday (1) 9:25	
start (1) 4:10	today (1) 19:20	value (1) 8:1	young (2) 4:1;15:5	
started (1) 10:3	together (4) 15:8;18:2,14;19:7	visible (3) 12:1,3,9	<b>1</b>	
starts (1) 19:2	told (3) 10:5;14:18;18:21	<b>W</b>	1 (1) 4:11	
state (1) 7:21	tomorrow (1) 19:20	warming (1) 13:16	<b>2</b>	
Station (1) 5:25	tonight's (1) 19:23	WASHINGTON (26) 3:1,8,12,16,19,25; 5:14,18;6:1,7,20,24; 7:1,6,12,13,20;8:22; 11:20;15:11,15,20, 24;16:3;20:1,5	2 (1) 4:21	
stay (1) 20:6	total (1) 5:23	way (2)	2015 (1)	
Steve (1) 4:1	Township (14) 4:20;5:5;6:4;7:25; 9:5;11:2,10,22;12:3; 14:7;15:19;16:12; 17:7,10			
still (1) 19:20	townships (1) 4:5			
stinginess (1) 13:22				
stop (1) 11:11				