

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

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*January 04, 2022  
Regular Meeting*

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**BOSS REPORTERS**  
*Gary \* Merrillville \* Valparaiso, Indiana  
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Merrillville, Indiana 46410  
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1 STATE OF INDIANA)  
 )SS:  
2 COUNTY OF LAKE )

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

8 REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had at the meeting  
9 before the Calumet Township Board of Trustees,  
10 reported by Beth A. Barnette, CSR and Notary Public,  
11 Illinois License No. 084-004727, at the Calumet  
12 Township Trustee Building, 610 Connecticut Street,  
13 Gary, Indiana, on the 4th day of January, 2022, at  
14 6:00 o'clock in the evening.

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APPEARANCES:

Darren Washington, Board Chairman  
Jacqueline Holmes, Board Member/Secretary  
James Piggee, Board Member  
Sharita Smith, Chief Deputy  
Kimberly Robinson, Township Trustee  
Toyka Cunningham, 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: Good evening,  
2 ladies and gentlemen. First of all, Happy New  
3 Year. Welcome to the first meeting of the  
4 Calumet Township Board. Let us stand for the  
5 Pledge of Allegiance.

6                   (Pledge of Allegiance recited.)

7                   CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Happy New  
8 Year, Madam Trustee. How you doing this  
9 evening?

10                  TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Thank you. I'm  
11 well.

12                  CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Let us have  
13 Roll Call, Ms. Cunningham.

14                  MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Piggee?

15                  MR. PIGGEE: Present.

16                  MS. CUNNINGHAM: Ms. Holmes?

17                  MS. HOLMES: Present.

18                  MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Washington?

19                  CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Present. We  
20 have three Board members present. We have  
21 enough for a meeting.

22                  The next issue is Reorganization of  
23 the Township Board, based on Indiana Code  
24 36-6-6-7, Election of Chairman and Secretary  
25 for the Calumet Township Board for the 2022

1 Fiscal Year.

2 The Chair makes a motion to elect  
3 the same Board members as last year by  
4 acclimation, Mr. Darren Washington for  
5 president, Ms. Jackie Holmes, secretary. All  
6 in favor signify by saying aye.

7 (Board members saying "aye" in  
8 unison.)

9 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Those opposed?

10 (No immediate response.)

11 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: They ayes have  
12 it. Congratulations, Ms. Holmes. What?

13 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: You need a  
14 second.

15 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: I thought we  
16 had a second. I'm sorry. Did you second?

17 MR. PIGGEE: Yes, I second it.

18 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. Tell us  
19 what happened, because I made the motion.

20 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Do you have a  
21 second recorded, or no?

22 MS. CUNNINGHAM: No.

23 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: No second,  
24 okay. I make a motion. Is there a second?

25 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

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CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Second by  
Mr. Piggee. All in favor signify by saying  
aye.

(Board members saying "aye" in  
unison.)

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: The ayes have  
it. Motion carries. Thank you. Sorry about  
these masks. You have to speak up.

All right. Item No. 3, Approval of  
Minutes. The Chair makes a motion for the  
approval of the minutes. Is there a second?

MR. PIGGEE: Second.

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Is there any  
discussion about the minutes or any changes?  
Madam Trustee, do you have any?

TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I do not. Thank  
you.

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. Roll  
call, Ms. Cunningham.

MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Piggee?

MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

MS. CUNNINGHAM: Ms. Holmes?

MS. HOLMES: Yes.

MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Washington?

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes. With

1 three yeses, approval of the minutes passes.

2 Item No. 4, Contracts. For the  
3 Board members, we're looking at our Board  
4 attorney. We got that in the mail from  
5 Attorney Deidre Monroe. The Chair makes a  
6 motion for the approval of the contract for  
7 the Board attorney. Is there a second?

8 MR. PIGGEE: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Is there any  
10 discussion by Board members or questions  
11 concerning the contract? Hearing none. Roll  
12 call, Ms. Cunningham.

13 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Piggee?

14 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

15 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Ms. Holmes?

16 MS. HOLMES: Yes.

17 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Washington?

18 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes. With  
19 three yeses, the motion carries. The contract  
20 is approved.

21 The next item is the Court Reporter  
22 Contract for 2022. The Chair makes a motion  
23 to approve the court reporter contract with  
24 Boss Reporters for 2022. Is there a second?

25 MS. HOLMES: I second.

1 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Is there a  
2 discussion or questions by any Board members?  
3 Hearing none. Roll call, Ms. Cunningham.

4 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Piggee?

5 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

6 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Ms. Holmes?

7 MS. HOLMES: Yes.

8 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Washington?

9 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes. With  
10 three yeas, the court reporter contract is  
11 approved.

12 Are there any Public Comments by the  
13 public today? Good afternoon. Thank you for  
14 coming. Do you have any comments you'd like  
15 to make before we close the meeting out?

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Not today,  
17 thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Good evening,  
19 Madam Trustee. Do you have any comments?

20 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes, two,  
21 quickly. Are we going to discuss the  
22 resolution for NIPSCO?

23 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

24 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I thought we  
25 would amend the agenda to add it, unless we



1 wanted to keep it until our February meeting.  
2 We can have discussion tonight. It's up to  
3 you all. I just didn't know where we were  
4 with it.

5 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Do you need to  
6 make some additions?

7 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I do not.

8 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Is there any  
9 reason that you think that we don't need to  
10 pass it tonight?

11 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: No, I was just  
12 saying I didn't know who had time to read it  
13 or --

14 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: I got it.  
15 Board members, did you get a copy?

16 MS. CUNNINGHAM: I have copies  
17 available.

18 MR. FIGGEE: Okay.

19 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: You got your  
20 copy, right, Ms. Holmes?

21 MS. HOLMES: Yes.

22 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: I got mine  
23 too.

24 MR. FIGGEE: I must have gotten  
25 mine, I'm sorry.

1 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: So it was just a  
2 suggestion.  
3 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay.  
4 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I didn't know.  
5 It's up to you all, totally. I'm for it. It  
6 doesn't matter. Also, we are officially  
7 annexed from Griffith. So, starting tomorrow  
8 the public notices will be placed in our  
9 offices and we will probably need to send a  
10 few to the newspaper. As of Monday, we had  
11 three people still come and looking for  
12 services from our township and not  
13 understanding that they now must be serviced  
14 by North Township. So we did refer them to  
15 the right place. I know there was an article  
16 in the paper on the first, and so we'll see  
17 how it goes. I think that's it for me. Thank  
18 you.  
19 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Madam Trustee,  
20 I've got a question. Based on what has  
21 happened with (Indistinct) is there any  
22 updates or any changes that will be made at  
23 the office, at least the first few months of  
24 the year, or is everything going as planned?  
25 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Everything is as

1 planned as the order as we've had it. Last  
2 year we took, you know, necessary precautions.  
3 So far we haven't had much -- well, sort of,  
4 kind of, but we're dealing with it as best we  
5 can. We're just asking employees that if they  
6 don't feel well, please don't come to work  
7 unless you know for sure. We're still  
8 servicing clients, sort of like appointments.  
9 They drop everything off. We do everything  
10 via telephone.

11 We all have laptops that we have the  
12 ability to work from home, if we have to. You  
13 know, we check with staff almost weekly to see  
14 how everything is going, how people are  
15 feeling, and no one has really, you know, been  
16 afraid to come in. So we're still essential  
17 in that respect. If we decide, you know, or  
18 if we need some direction in changing times or  
19 reducing our hours again, we'll be sure to  
20 keep the Board informed.

21 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. And I  
22 also talked to Attorney Monroe. I pray that  
23 things will get better. If we ever have to do  
24 our meetings by way of Microsoft Team or Zoom,  
25 Attorney Williams, Attorney Monroe is going to

1 get with you to see if we need to do like  
2 council pass a resolution or an ordinance to  
3 do the meetings by way of virtual media.

4 MR. WILLIAMS: You do. But we're  
5 still under the governor's emergency order, so  
6 you're still allowed to do it without it. But  
7 I would encourage you all to do that either  
8 way, because something may happen and you want  
9 to meet virtually for any other reason, you  
10 have to have that approved to do it. I have a  
11 template and we'll put it together and put  
12 your name on it and we'll have it if we ever  
13 have a need it for.

14 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. Because  
15 we want to make sure that everybody is feeling  
16 safe and so that we will be able to continue  
17 to hold our meetings.

18 Board Comments. Mr. Piggee, do you  
19 have any comments?

20 MR. PIGGEE: Yes, I do, Mr. Chair.  
21 First of all, I would like to wish everybody a  
22 Happy New Year. I'm very proud of  
23 Ms. Robinson and her staff because they have  
24 been wonderful. This year they have taken  
25 care of business. I've come down here on

1 several occasions and these people got it  
2 together. They really have it together.

3 And again, I would like to make you  
4 aware of the Katie Hall date and that is  
5 January 16th at First Baptist on 21st Avenue.  
6 Last year it was in Indianapolis and the  
7 governor was a recipient. And Ms. Robinson  
8 was fantastic. She spoke. She and several  
9 other people from Gary spoke. Ms. Robinson  
10 and Ms. Allen from Urban League and Ms. Pruett  
11 from the Mayor's office was fantastic. And I  
12 think you should go and I think Ms. Robinson  
13 will speak again. She's a fantastic speaker.  
14 I didn't know Ms. Robinson was that good.

15 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Well, thank you.

16 MR. PIGGEE: But she impressed me.  
17 She really impressed me. So, again, that's  
18 January 16th at 3:00 o'clock, at First Baptist  
19 on 21st Avenue. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Thank you,  
21 Mr. Piggee. Ms. Holmes?

22 MS. HOLMES: I just want to also  
23 reiterate that a lot of people in the city  
24 been saying that they've been coming down here  
25 getting serviced. A lot of people didn't know

1           that this exists. We have new neighbors  
2           coming in from Illinois and, you know, they  
3           did not know, but they were happy when they  
4           came down here with the way they were serviced  
5           and a very, you know, good organization.

6                        TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Thank you.

7                        MS. HOLMES: Thank you. So I just  
8           wanted to tell you guys keep up the good work.

9                        TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Thank you.

10                      CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: I'd like to  
11           echo Mr. Piggee and Ms. Holmes. The last  
12           couple years -- it all started my first term.  
13           Ms. Holmes and Mr. Piggee were not on the  
14           Board. I want to congratulate you, Madam  
15           Trustee, for your fortitude and continuing to  
16           fight for the residents, in spite of all the  
17           road blocks that have been presented to us,  
18           even through the legislature and other things  
19           that, to a certain extent, we don't have any  
20           control over.

21                      I wanted to ask you also and I  
22           forgot and if you want to respond. I know you  
23           work well with our legislatures. Is there  
24           anything that we're going to be looking at  
25           having them introduce? I know we had issues

1 regarding having people come in and take  
2 benefits who just moved into the area. I know  
3 you've been working on some things that could  
4 possibly be done. So if you have anything you  
5 want to publicly state or you can get with us  
6 at a later time, but I know you talk with our  
7 legislatures all the time. And I'm sorry, I  
8 forgot to ask you about that.

9 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: No, we really --  
10 the latest thing was just the whole transition  
11 of Griffith out of here, just to make sure  
12 that we would still be okay. I think the one  
13 item that could be some issue to it is they  
14 could be revisiting the whole board, the  
15 purpose of the board again, and they also had  
16 something about cemetery care, which we're  
17 okay with so far.

18 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Hal Slager,  
19 huh?

20 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I guess. I have  
21 no idea. Hal Slager, Niemeyer, a whole group  
22 of them.

23 MR. FIGGEE: What cemetery are you  
24 talking about?

25 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: The cemeteries

1 that we own, which have been abandoned, the  
2 one there on 23rd and Grant Street, that faces  
3 Grant Street and behind the Trinity United  
4 Church of Christ. Those are both ours.

5 MR. PIGGEE: I didn't know that,  
6 because back in the day, all the Germans was  
7 there in that. Nothing but Germans was buried  
8 in that cemetery.

9 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Right. We don't  
10 use it, but --

11 MR. PIGGEE: No, we don't.

12 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: -- we just have  
13 to take care of it because it's been abandoned  
14 by the German community.

15 MR. PIGGEE: Right. Okay. I'm  
16 sorry. I just wanted to know.

17 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: We own it and  
18 clean it, but if we had to actually use it,  
19 that would be a whole other issue.

20 MR. PIGGEE: We would catch heck.

21 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: And I will just  
22 say also that if anyone -- like we may get  
23 some grief from the Calumet Township area  
24 because like their taxes may be increased or  
25 something may happen to them in reference to



1 Griffith leaving. But again, I'm going to  
2 point them to the legislatures that made this  
3 happen. I didn't ask for it. This was, you  
4 know, Hal Slager, Senator Niemeyer, the other  
5 guy in Porter County, all of those people that  
6 made it happen, you know, just for Lake County  
7 and above.

8 So we'll see how they work out with  
9 North Township. If they try to then still  
10 give over to St. John eventually, you know,  
11 they'll feel the same kind of crunch, because  
12 they have more people now with the City of  
13 East Chicago, with the City of Hammond. So  
14 Griffith, it will still not, you know, get as  
15 much, but give the same amount, so.

16 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Right, right.  
17 That being said, the Chair makes a motion for  
18 adjournment.

19 MR. PIGGEE: So moved.

20 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All in favor  
21 signify by saying aye.

22 (Board members saying "aye" in  
23 unison.)

24 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: The meeting is  
25 now adjourned.

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(Proceedings concluded at  
6:18 p.m.)

\* \* \*

STATE OF INDIANA)  
                                  )SS:  
COUNTY OF LAKE )

BEFORE THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
GARY, INDIANA

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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

Signed this 20th day of January,  
2022.

*Beth Barnette*

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

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  
8 Board meeting held on January 4, 2022, were  
9 approved by the Board of Trustees on the 4<sup>th</sup>  
10 day of January, 2022.  
11

12  
13 Darren Washington  
14 Darren Washington, Board Chairman

15 Jacqueline Holmes  
16 Jacqueline Holmes, Board Secretary

17  
18 James Piggee  
19 James Piggee, Board Member  
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Before the Calumet Township  
Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting

January 04, 2022

	<b>12:5,19</b>	<b>13:19</b>	<b>11:2</b>	<b>10:16</b>
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