

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

---

*October 10, 2022  
Regular Meeting*

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

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STATE OF INDIANA)  
  ) SS:  
COUNTY OF LAKE )

BEFORE THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
GARY, INDIANA

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had at the meeting  
before the Calumet Township Board of Trustees,  
reported by Beth A. Barnette, CSR and Notary Public,  
Illinois License No. 084-004727, held at 610  
Connecticut Street, Gary, Indiana, on the 10th day  
of October, 2022, at 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

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APPEARANCES

Jacqueline Holmes, Board Chairwoman

Michael Protho, Board Secretary

James Piggee, Board Member

Deidre Monroe, Board Attorney

Kimberly Robinson, Township Trustee

Sherita Smith, Chief Deputy

Rinzer Williams, III, Township Attorney

Toyka Cunningham, Executive Secretary

Gladys Miller, Finance Manager

Steve Dalton, Financial Advisor

and

Members of the Public

\* \* \*

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1 CHAIRWOMAN HOLMES: Good afternoon,  
2 all. How are you doing? We're going to start  
3 the meeting. Stand up for the Pledge of  
4 Allegiance, please.

5 (Pledge of Allegiance recited.)

6 CHAIRWOMAN HOLMES: Roll call.

7 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Piggee?

8 MR. PIGGEE: Present.

9 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Protho?

10 MR. PROTHO: Here.

11 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Ms. Holmes?

12 CHAIRWOMAN HOLMES: Present. With  
13 three Board members, we have a quorum. The  
14 Chair would entertain a motion to elect  
15 Mr. Protho to serve as secretary of the Board  
16 to December 31, 2022.

17 MR. PIGGEE: Miss Chair, I move that  
18 we elect Mr. Protho.

19 MR. PROTHO: Second.

20 CHAIRWOMAN HOLMES: Roll call.

21 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Piggee?

22 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

23 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Protho?

24 MR. PROTHO: Yes.

25 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Ms. Holmes?

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CHAIRWOMAN HOLMES: Yes. Three  
yeses.

The Chair makes a motion for passage  
of Resolution -- oh, the minutes, I'm sorry.  
The minutes from the September 12, 2022  
meeting.

MR. PIGGEE: So moved.

MR. PROTHO: Second.

MS. CUNNINGHAM: Roll call.

Mr. Piggee?

MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Protho?

MR. PROTHO: Yes.

MS. CUNNINGHAM: Ms. Holmes?

CHAIRWOMAN HOLMES: Yes. Three  
yeses. The minutes are approved.

Next, Madam Trustee, we have  
Resolution 2022-07, the Budget Resolution,  
State Budget Form 48.

TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Thank you, Madam  
Chair. It actually stays the same from the  
presentation a month ago, but I will direct  
any comments to Mr. Dalton.

MR. DALTON: Thank you, Board. If  
you have any questions, I'll be glad to take

1           them. I'll just give you a quick summary of  
2           what we talked about last month. The budgets  
3           in front of you are balanced. That means that  
4           the revenues exceed the expenses that are  
5           being requested. The budgets in front of you  
6           reflect the salary resolution that you already  
7           approved last month. So they concur and  
8           synchronize.

9                         There's no external borrowing.  
10           There's no borrowing from banks. There's no  
11           borrowing from other entities. You are  
12           entirely self-funded. And in cases where you  
13           need cash flow, you borrow from your own Rainy  
14           Day Fund without any interest. So I would,  
15           upon any questions being answered, I would  
16           recommend that you make a motion to adopt this  
17           budget for 2023.

18                         MR. PIGGEE: Madam Chair?

19           Mr. Dalton.

20                         MR. DALTON: Yes, sir.

21                         MR. PIGGEE: I've forgotten what  
22           we -- on the raise for the staff, could you  
23           tell us what that is again? I've forgotten  
24           what it was.

25                         MR. DALTON: I'm going to redirect

1           that question to Sherita, because she actually  
2           handles the staff salaries. The provisions  
3           for the staff salaries were a percentage  
4           range?

5                        CHIEF DEP. SMITH: Yes. There was a  
6           range that was set up, and as was voted on at  
7           the last meeting, those salaries were  
8           approved. All members of the staff received  
9           an increase with the exception of the Trustee.  
10          She did not receive an increase. It was only  
11          staff that received an increase. That was  
12          voted upon. It took effect after the vote,  
13          and so everything, based on the vote last  
14          month, went through.

15                      MR. PIGGEE: In other words, you're  
16          saying -- I thought that was for the beginning  
17          of the year of 2023.

18                      CHIEF DEP. SMITH: No. What we  
19          talked about at the last meeting was that it  
20          was decided upon that with everything that's  
21          going on with the changes, increases,  
22          inflation, and everything, that an amendment  
23          was made to the previous salary resolution  
24          that had been given at the beginning of the  
25          year. An amendment was made so that the

1 raises could take effect immediately and not  
2 have to happen in 2023.

3 MR. PIGGEE: Oh, okay.

4 CHIEF DEP. SMITH: So both the  
5 salary resolution amendment and what the  
6 salary resolution will be in 2023 are the  
7 exact same, and so all of those raises were  
8 issued to staff, as was voted upon. And  
9 again, everyone, with the exception of the  
10 Trustee. Her salary did not change.

11 MR. PIGGEE: Okay. Thank you.

12 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: With a difference  
13 of 90 days, October, November, December, which  
14 is seven pays, and so we just thought it would  
15 be necessary to start it now for the staff,  
16 rather than have them wait until next year.  
17 And if you have your notes from last month,  
18 you should have it in there what the ranges  
19 were.

20 MR. PIGGEE: All right. Thank you,  
21 Madam Chair.

22 CHAIRWOMAN HOLMES: Mr. Protho, do  
23 you have any questions?

24 MR. PROTHO: No.

25 CHAIRWOMAN HOLMES: And the public,



1 do you have any questions concerning what we  
2 just talked about? No? Thank you.

3 MR. PIGGEE: Another question. So  
4 the Rainy Day budget and everything is okay.

5 MR. DALTON: Yes, it's great. It  
6 continues to grow.

7 MR. PIGGEE: Okay. Can you give us  
8 an idea what the Rainy Day is now?

9 MR. DALTON: I'm going to guess  
10 4 million, and Gladys is going to tell us the  
11 real number. 3.8 million.

12 MR. PIGGEE: 3.8 million. Thank  
13 you.

14 CHAIRWOMAN HOLMES: I'd like to  
15 motion to approve what we just discussed.

16 MR. PIGGEE: Madam Chair, I would  
17 make a motion that we accept the report from  
18 Mr. Dalton.

19 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Second. That would  
20 be Mr. Piggee seconded. Okay? Roll call.

21 Mr. Piggee?

22 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

23 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Protho?

24 MR. PROTHO: Yes.

25 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Ms. Holmes?

1 CHAIRWOMAN HOLMES: Yes.

2 Okay. Madam Trustee?

3 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes. So next we  
4 have on the agenda our usual holiday schedule  
5 for the year, and I would just ask that an  
6 amendment be made for Monday, October 9, 2023,  
7 and that it is named Richard Gordon Hatcher  
8 Day, as we have done that. We made that  
9 amendment last year. I'm not sure why it's  
10 still Columbus Day. We celebrate Richard  
11 Gordon Hatcher Day over here. We're still  
12 off.

13 I'm sure someone will make the  
14 amendment on the actual schedule, but I just  
15 wanted to ask that of the Board, if we could  
16 accept the schedule with an amendment that  
17 Columbus Day be Richard Gordon Hatcher Day,  
18 Monday, October 9, 2023, in which the office  
19 will be closed.

20 MR. PIGGEE: And that's from now on?

21 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes, sir.

22 MR. PIGGEE: I move that we accept  
23 that recommendation.

24 MR. PROTHO: Second.

25 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Seconded by

1 Mr. Protho. And the vote. Mr. Piggee?

2 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

3 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Protho?

4 MR. PROTHO: Yes.

5 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Ms. Holmes?

6 CHAIRWOMAN HOLMES: Yes.

7 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Thank you.

8 CHAIRWOMAN HOLMES: You're welcome.

9 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: So next we have  
10 on the agenda is our resolution, again a  
11 standard resolution that we have to submit  
12 every year to the Board, our standard  
13 Eligibility for Township Assistance. It is in  
14 the package that you got in your folder.  
15 Everyone here has one on their desk. The only  
16 changes that were made to the standards -- and  
17 it's always up for public purview if someone  
18 wanted to see it.

19 But the only changes we made were  
20 that we remove anything having to do with the  
21 Town of Griffith, since they are no longer  
22 with us, and we also updated the Food Stamp  
23 information. We updated it to match the State  
24 requirements, but we also know that they are  
25 still working on more or less. So there may

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1 be another update sometime this year, but when  
2 that does happen, we'll make it in the book  
3 and then just bring it to the Board for  
4 retroactive approval at the usual time that we  
5 bring it.

6 CHAIRWOMAN HOLMES: Do we have any  
7 public comments for what we just discussed?  
8 Any questions?

9 (No immediate response.)

10 CHAIRWOMAN HOLMES: Mr. Protho?

11 MR. PROTHO: No.

12 CHAIRWOMAN HOLMES: Mr. Piggee?

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

14 Madam Trustee?

15 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes.

16 MR. PIGGEE: We are waiting for the  
17 State for their approval before we can make  
18 that approval?

19 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: No, not at all.  
20 The approval was made by you three, the Board.  
21 The State does not have to approve it. What I  
22 said we were waiting for was any further or  
23 current information that comes from the State  
24 dealing with Food Stamps. That's what I'm  
25 waiting for. They do have something new that

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1 was changed from last year, but we know that  
2 they keep making these changes due to just all  
3 of the system changes that they make. So, no,  
4 we're not waiting for it. I was just letting  
5 you know what was changed and it could  
6 possibly change again.

7 MR. PIGGEE: Okay. I appreciate  
8 that.

9 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes.

10 MR. PROTHO: I make a motion that we  
11 approve 2022-11.

12 MR. PIGGEE: Second.

13 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Roll call.

14 Mr. Piggee?

15 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

16 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Protho?

17 MR. PROTHO: Yes.

18 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Ms. Holmes?

19 CHAIRWOMAN HOLMES: Yes.

20 Item No. 8, discussion of prescribed  
21 date for the next Board meeting, or future  
22 Board meetings.

23 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Well, Madam  
24 Chair, that would be your discussion to have.  
25 We usually have to have a meeting the first

1 Tuesday after the first Monday. So I believe  
2 that's January 3, 2023. So if you would like  
3 to set that date today, then we'll know in  
4 January. If you guys would like to keep it at  
5 4:00 or you could -- I know that everyone is  
6 retired except you, Madam Chair. So if we did  
7 a noon, a 10:00 a.m. meeting, that would be  
8 good, but that would be something that you  
9 would have to discuss.

10 ATTORNEY MONROE: Are you guys  
11 getting sworn in before then because the term  
12 starts or how are you guys planning on doing  
13 that?

14 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I usually do the  
15 31st. So that would just be -- but that date  
16 is usually set for them to have their re-org,  
17 so.

18 ATTORNEY MONROE: Okay.

19 CHAIRWOMAN HOLMES: Any comment?

20 MR. PIGGEE: No, no comment from me.

21 MR. PROTHO: We need to set a date  
22 for January 3rd?

23 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: We're just trying  
24 to -- the first week is always by statute, the  
25 January 3rd, the first Tuesday after the first

1 Monday. So that's the date that we always  
2 have for the first meeting, and that day you  
3 guys have reorganization, but we can get  
4 together and talk about the 31st as a swearing  
5 in kind of thing.

6 CHAIRWOMAN HOLMES: Mr. Piggee, did  
7 you have any questions?

8 MR. PIGGEE: No, no questions.

9 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Madam Chair,  
10 we've just been notified that we cannot do it  
11 any later. You can do it before if you guys  
12 want. If you want to come sometime between  
13 the 30th or the 31st, or whatever, that's up  
14 to you, but we just can't do it any later than  
15 that date. That's why we suggested it.

16 MR. PIGGEE: Madam Chair, I think  
17 that date is fine. January 3rd is fine.

18 CHAIRWOMAN HOLMES: Thank you. I  
19 will make a motion to make sure that our date  
20 will be for the 3rd of January.

21 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Madam Chair, that  
22 date is because the 1st is a Sunday and the  
23 2nd is a Monday, and so you have to do it the  
24 Tuesday after the first Monday and that is the  
25 3rd. So you guys should really take that

1 date.

2 CHAIRWOMAN HOLMES: Okay. We did.

3 MR. PIGGEE: She just made a motion  
4 for the 3rd.

5 CHAIRWOMAN HOLMES: All right. I  
6 entertain a motion to accept --

7 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Did you put a time  
8 in? I'm sorry.

9 MR. PIGGEE: 4:00 o'clock.

10 MS. CUNNINGHAM: 4:00 o'clock?

11 CHAIRWOMAN HOLMES: Yes.

12 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Okay. So the next  
13 scheduled meeting is January 3, 2023, at 4:00.  
14 Right?

15 CHAIRWOMAN HOLMES: Yes.

16 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Okay.

17 CHAIRWOMAN HOLMES: So do we have  
18 any comments from the public, concerns? Do I  
19 have a hand? If you could stand up and state  
20 your name.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)  
22 This is my second time attending the Township  
23 meetings, and I just want to say I actually  
24 enjoy it. Your transparency is refreshing. I  
25 appreciate the fact that you answered all of



1 Mr. Piggee's questions. I've been through  
2 others that has not been so transparent and so  
3 easy, and I want to thank you all. Great job.  
4 MR. PIGGEE: Thank you.  
5 CHAIRWOMAN HOLMES: Thank you.  
6 Appreciate your comments.  
7 MR. PROTHO: Do we have a motion  
8 concerning the date?  
9 COURT REPORTER: Got a motion, but  
10 no second.  
11 MR. PIGGEE: I second that motion.  
12 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.  
13 CHAIRWOMAN HOLMES: Roll call.  
14 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Piggee?  
15 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.  
16 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Protho?  
17 MR. PROTHO: Yes.  
18 MS. CUNNINGHAM: And Ms. Holmes?  
19 CHAIRWOMAN HOLMES: Yes.  
20 Trustee, do you have any comments?  
21 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes, I'd like to  
22 just give a few things as we end the year.  
23 First, I want to congratulate Mr. Protho and  
24 welcome him.  
25 (Applause.)

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1 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: It's nice to have  
2 a kind face and partner. Secondly, I wanted  
3 to share in that we are working on a bilingual  
4 pamphlet that tells of our services and  
5 getting some more signs around. As we know,  
6 there's not been a pickup here as of yet, but  
7 we may have to anticipate that some of the  
8 people that have come from Chicago or  
9 sanctuary cities might come over here for  
10 service and so we just want to be prepared. I  
11 have not heard from our USDA farm partners  
12 that we had last year, which we gave away the  
13 baskets from August to about November, so I'm  
14 checking into that.

15 But, meanwhile, we have partnered  
16 with Patrick Curtis, Whitaker, and Faith Farms  
17 in some giveaways, some really good  
18 farm-to-food, farm-to-table items that we've  
19 been able redistribute that we got from him  
20 for the community, and also through that  
21 connection Northwest Indiana Food Bank has  
22 asked to partner with us as well. We've  
23 worked with WorkOne in collaboration of  
24 streamlining of services throughout Northwest  
25 Indiana and Lake, LaPorte, and Porter

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1 Counties. And G&S has decided this year they  
2 cannot be the location for the EAP program.

3 So we are going to have some of the  
4 applications here. They won't be serviced  
5 here. They can pick up the application here.  
6 I have asked and offered that we would give  
7 them space if they would put one of the maybe  
8 case managers for energy assistance here,  
9 because I think the other nearest location  
10 would be out in Crown Point, and we know  
11 sometimes for our constituency transportation  
12 is a problem. So we'll have some application  
13 packets here, which they'll take home, and I'm  
14 not sure how we will get them out there  
15 because, you know, that is a great help to us  
16 and to the constituency.

17 We will be doing and I've already  
18 spoken with -- I went to the graduation, the  
19 veteran's graduation for Judge Cantrell's  
20 court on Friday, and Jim Chancellor, who we  
21 worked with through our veteran's program, has  
22 asked for 20 names. He would prefer they were  
23 veterans first, but it will probably be  
24 whoever we can get to him for food baskets for  
25 October, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, and we

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1 will have our annual coat drive. We'll  
2 continue to work with Mr. Markel Watkins and  
3 his Fight Drive.

4 And we will probably by the end of  
5 the year have some food vouchers that we may  
6 be able to give away, because we have a pastor  
7 who has been very vigilant in giving us gift  
8 cards to the local grocery stores. It's for  
9 like weekends and no questions, nothing asked.  
10 They don't have to fill out an entire  
11 application, but that does really help people,  
12 especially on the weekend when they called me  
13 if a family is in need and we weren't able to  
14 get into the office. Any questions of me?

15 MR. PIGGEE: No.

16 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Thank you.

17 MR. PIGGEE: Madam.

18 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes.

19 MR. PIGGEE: I think you're doing a  
20 great job.

21 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Thank you.

22 MR. PIGGEE: Handling that type of  
23 situation, that's fantastic, because I have  
24 not heard of that in a long time. So just  
25 keep up the good work.

1 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Thank you.

2 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Board comments?

3 MR. PROTHO: Yes. I would like to  
4 thank Kim for accepting me. I enjoy working  
5 with this Board. There's a big difference  
6 between here and the (Inaudible.) Here we are  
7 able to solve problems real quickly together  
8 and I appreciate that. And I thank the people  
9 for electing me in the Primary. So I look  
10 forward to the next four years. Attorney  
11 Williams, who has been a good friend of mine,  
12 I'm looking forward to working with him as  
13 well, as well as Judge Monroe. Thank you.

14 ATTORNEY MONROE: Thank you.

15 MR. PIGGEE: I'm very happy and very  
16 glad the way things are going with this Board,  
17 along with the staff here at the Calumet  
18 Trustee's Office. I'm able to talk with Madam  
19 Trustee on a regular basis when I got  
20 questions, and along with Ms. Smith. I've  
21 talked with both before, and they're very,  
22 very good in what they do. So I really  
23 appreciate that.

24 And I think we have an outstanding  
25 Board. I mean, it's just coming together a

1 little bit more, because a lot of the people  
2 on this Board is new, but we're going to get  
3 it together. And just like I just told you  
4 about the Trustee and what she's doing and  
5 what she's done, along with Ms. Smith, they're  
6 doing a fantastic job. So, Madam Trustee and  
7 Ms. Smith, thank you.

8 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: And I will say,  
9 Mr. Piggee, it's not just myself and  
10 Ms. Smith. It's the whole --

11 MR. PIGGEE: Well, yeah.

12 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I'm just saying,  
13 it's the whole team, the whole collective of  
14 about 50 people that make this operation go  
15 and continuously operate in excellence.

16 MR. PIGGEE: I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

17 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Okay. Thank you.

18 MR. PIGGEE: Your whole staff.

19 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Right, there you  
20 go.

21 MR. PIGGEE: Okay. Thank you.

22 CHAIRWOMAN HOLMES: And I would like  
23 to say I enjoy Mr. Protho and Mr. Piggee and  
24 thank you, Judge, for being here with us for  
25 this, and I want to continue to work with you

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guys. So just looking forward to good things coming. Thank you.

MR. PIGGEE: I make a motion that we adjourn.

MR. PROTHO: Second.

TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Thank you. Have a nice holiday, if I don't see you.

MS. CUNNINGHAM: The meeting is concluded at 4:34 p.m.

(Proceedings concluded.)

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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 twenty-two  
(22) typewritten pages, is a true and correct  
transcript of my said stenographic notes, to the  
best of my ability.

Signed this 26th day of October,  
2022.

*Beth Barnette*

---

BETH A. BARNETTE, CSR  
Notary Public  
My Commission Expires: 6/13/30

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

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 4 THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
 5 GARY, INDIANA

6  
 7 These minutes of the Calumet Township  
 8 Board meeting, held on October 10, 2022, were  
 9 approved by the Board of Trustees on the 10th day  
 10 of October, 2023.

11  
 12  
 13  
 14 Jacqueline Holmes  
 15 Jacqueline Holmes, Board Chairwoman

16  
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 18 Michael Protho  
 19 Michael Protho, Board Secretary

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 23 James Piggee, Board Member

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