

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

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*February 14, 2022  
Regular Meeting*

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**BOSS REPORTERS**  
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THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
GARY, INDIANA

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had at the meeting  
before the Calumet Township Board, reported by  
Kristen K. Stokes, CSR, Notary Public in and for the  
County of Lake, State of Indiana, taken at 610  
Connecticut Street, Gary, Indiana, on February 14,  
2022, scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. in the  
evening.

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APPEARANCES:

- Darren Washington, Board Chairman
- 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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(BOARD MEETING COMMENCED AT 6:00 PM.)

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: May we have a roll call for attendance, Ms. Cunningham? And good evening and happy Valentine's Day, everyone. I apologize. We'll have you out on this day. Hopefully, we won't be very long.

MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Piggee?

MR. PIGGEE: Present.

MS. CUNNINGHAM: Ms. Holmes?

(NO RESPONSE.)

MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Washington?

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Present. With two board members present and one absent.

And for the record, Ms. Holmes did give me -- did contact me and tell me that she would not be able to make the meeting this evening. So she already called. So if anybody is wondering why she's not here, she called me.

So let's go ahead with the approval -- Item No. 3, approval of the minutes for the meeting on January 4th, 2022. Any changes? Any additions? Anything, Madam Trustee?

TRUSTEE ROBINSON: No.

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CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Mr. Piggee?

MR. PIGGEE: No.

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Chair makes a motion for the approval of the minutes for January 4th. Is there a second?

MR. PIGGEE: Second.

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Seeing there's a second, may we have a roll call, Ms. Cunningham.

MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Piggee?

MR. PIGGEE: Yea.

MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Washington?

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes. With two yeas, approval of the minutes for the meeting on January 4th, 2022, passes.

Item No. 4, Resolution 2022-02, authorizing opposition to a NIPSCO flat rate.

ATTORNEY WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair, I apologize. Procedurally, the agenda states the approval of minutes, so I just want to be sure that you were approving both sets of minutes for both meetings?

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: I was approving the minutes on this agenda.

MR. PIGGEE: January 4th.

1           ATTORNEY WILLIAMS: But there were two  
2 sets from both meetings on the same day.

3           CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Were they both on  
4 January 4th?

5           ATTORNEY WILLIAMS: Yes.

6           CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes, then that's --

7           ATTORNEY WILLIAMS: I just wanted to make  
8 sure we were covering both sets of minutes.

9           CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes, and thank you,  
10 Attorney Williams. For the record, both  
11 meeting minutes for the regular board and the  
12 Board of Finance.

13           Any questions about the NIPSCO? We  
14 discussed this last meeting, but we brought  
15 it back.

16           Mr. Piggee, do you have any questions?

17           MR. PIGGEE: I was just wondering,  
18 Mr. President, how they're going to be able  
19 to determine who they're going to go up on,  
20 who they're not going to go up on, that type  
21 of thing. Can anybody explain to me what  
22 NIPSCO and how NIPSCO is going to do it?  
23 Have you talked to anybody regarding it,  
24 Ms. Robinson?

25           TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I have not.

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MR. PIGGEE: That's been a concern of mine, Mr. President.

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: I think that's why, Mr. Piggee, we looked at the resolution talking about our opposition to the increasing rates with all of the things that NIPSCO has been doing. So pretty much this is just going to show the Board's opposition for increasing rates and also the rate increase for the people who come to Township to get their bills paid. Okay?

MR. PIGGEE: Yep.

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All right. Any more questions?

MR. PIGGEE: No.

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All right. The Chair makes a motion for approval of Resolution 2022-02 authorizing opposition to the NIPSCO rate increase. Is there a second?

MR. PIGGEE: Second.

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Hearing a second, may we have a roll call, Ms. Cunningham.

MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Piggee?

MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Washington?

1 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

2 With two yeas, Ms. Holmes is absent, the  
3 resolution passes.

4 Item No. 5, Resolution 2022-03,  
5 affirmation of the 2021 annual report.

6 Madam Trustee?

7 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: This is just the  
8 resolution that I have to sign stating that I  
9 am aware of everything that is listed and  
10 posted here in the annual financial report  
11 that we are submitting tonight for your  
12 perusal for submission and approval.

13 We worked very hard with staff and with  
14 our accounting firm, Mr. Dalton, so  
15 everything should be as it is. I would ask  
16 that if you had any particular questions, to  
17 please put them in writing so that we can,  
18 you know, get them -- the answers back to you  
19 as quickly as possible.

20 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Any questions,  
21 Mr. Piggee?

22 MR. PIGGEE: No.

23 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. I have a few  
24 questions for the 2021 budget. I will put  
25 them --



1 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: It's not a budget.

2 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: I mean the  
3 approval. I will put them in writing, but I  
4 also want to ask you questions on the record  
5 this evening. So I'm going to go to the  
6 disbursements page.

7 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Which page is that?

8 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Page 10. I want to  
9 look under the Township -- Civil Township  
10 Fund, item under supplies, 10515, Platinum  
11 Plus For Business, business card. Is this a  
12 credit card --

13 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes.

14 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: -- for the  
15 Township?

16 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes.

17 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: I would like to  
18 have -- and I'll put this in writing, but  
19 also for the record, I want to have the  
20 expenses and what the card was used for for  
21 the \$13,785.27. So I can see the expenses  
22 that were spent with the credit card, not  
23 just for me, but for every board member  
24 because I want each board member to be able  
25 to look at those things.

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1 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Okay.

2 MR. PIGGEE: Mr. Chair?

3 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

4 MR. PIGGEE: This is the first time I  
5 notice that we have a credit card. I never  
6 known for us to have a credit card.

7 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Well, it's not  
8 basically told to us but --

9 MR. PIGGEE: It's not to us, but I mean  
10 to the staff.

11 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. Let's go to  
12 Page 11. Civil Township Fund, 2983, Clorius  
13 L. Lay. Can you tell us why Mr. Lay, as a  
14 former board member, is receiving \$7,500 from  
15 the Township?

16 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: When you put it in  
17 writing, I'll give the response, yes.

18 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Put that in writing  
19 and give it to all board members.

20 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Okay.

21 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Item number -- the  
22 next one is 10735, Jeffrey Jewett doing  
23 business as Net Results. We paid him  
24 \$42,206. I would like to know and the board  
25 members would like to know what contract this

1 is. Is it a legal contract? What kind of  
2 services are being provided, and provide the  
3 scope of services for this individual.

4 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Okay.

5 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Thank you.

6 Next item is on the same page, Page 11,  
7 10515, Platinum Business for business cards.  
8 This credit card for this item that we spent  
9 \$15,949.13 paying things. A list of expenses  
10 showing what this credit card was spent for  
11 this item.

12 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Okay.

13 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Give that to all  
14 board members.

15 Page 12, Item 3114, Ty Atkins Group  
16 Contractors LLC. I know Ty is a councilwoman  
17 in the fourth district. I did not know she  
18 was providing services for \$28,800. Please  
19 provide the board with the scope of contract  
20 and services and why she was paid the  
21 \$28,800, to all board members.

22 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Okay.

23 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Mr. Piggee, do you  
24 have any questions?

25 MR. PIGGEE: No. I'm just listening.

1 I'm just --

2 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Next item, on the  
3 same page --

4 MR. PIGGEE: Mr. Chair?

5 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

6 MR. PIGGEE: Each one of the board  
7 members will get this in writing?

8 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

9 MR. PIGGEE: The reason?

10 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

11 MR. PIGGEE: Okay. That's what I need to  
12 know.

13 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Next question is  
14 same Page 12, 3122, James Wilson doing  
15 business as Wilson Group Enterprises,  
16 \$24,999.60. The same thing, provide the  
17 board members what work was being done, the  
18 scope of it and when it was done.

19 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Okay.

20 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Page 13, 3103,  
21 Master Connections, LLC. \$6,000 was paid to  
22 this organization. Please provide us with  
23 the scope of work, who the person is. And  
24 anyone that we don't see the name that's  
25 listed on here, and it's like Master

1           Connections, let us know who the owner is and  
2           what scope of work they provided. Provide  
3           this to all board members.

4           Same Page 13, 3055, Bridgette R. Lane,  
5           d/b/a Helios Consulting, LLC. I don't know  
6           if this is the same person that was the  
7           Chief of Staff of former Mayor Karen  
8           Freeman-Wilson, but -- I don't know what she  
9           did, but can you provide for us the same  
10          information to the board members of her scope  
11          of work, what she did. She was paid \$48,000  
12          in 2021. I would like to know what she did  
13          and what that contract was about.

14          Next item, 3072, Dynamic Professional  
15          Solutions LLC, \$70,500. I would like to know  
16          who the owner of this company is, what they  
17          provide for the Township, and provide the  
18          scope and the President of the company to all  
19          board members for our review.

20          Page 17, looking at 2935, Solis LLC. I  
21          put this down for \$18,289.82. I've seen  
22          Solis throughout this entire budget on  
23          numerous occasions for a lot of money. So  
24          the Board would like to know -- I would like  
25          to know and the board members would like to

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1 know what scope of work has Solis done for  
2 the Township and who is the President of this  
3 organization.

4 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Okay.

5 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Page 18. There's  
6 another one for Dynamic Professional  
7 Solutions LLC, \$39,000, 3072. Same thing as  
8 before. Who owns the company? What scope of  
9 business is being done? Provide to all board  
10 members.

11 On Page 19, 3057, Ruth Ellen-Hatcher.  
12 I'd like to know -- and I don't know -- and  
13 I'm going to say this, but I'm not for sure,  
14 when I look at Township Assistance, I'm  
15 assuming someone that has property that is  
16 allowing someone to stay in the property and  
17 then Township is paying that owner of the  
18 property for that person to stay. This is  
19 for \$4,000. Also, in 2020 there was \$7,200  
20 also paid to Ruth Ellen Hatcher.

21 So if, in fact, this was paid for someone  
22 staying at one of her residences, I would  
23 like to know and provide to the board who is  
24 the person that's actually staying at the  
25 residence. Because I believe if we are

1           renting to people that are in need, we also  
2           knew who that person is when we pay the  
3           landlord. So can you provide that  
4           information also to the Board.

5           Page 20, 59550, Rinzer Williams, III, I  
6           see \$12,000. I know he's under Township  
7           Assistance. I know his legal services are  
8           \$60,000. So I wanted to know what this  
9           additional \$12,000 was for. I don't know if  
10          there are properties owned or anything like  
11          that, but please provide the Board with that  
12          information for Mr. Rinzer Williams.

13          ATTORNEY WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair?

14          CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

15          ATTORNEY WILLIAMS: I may be able to  
16          clear that up for you now. My contract is  
17          for \$72,000. It's the same rate that the  
18          former attorney made. It wasn't for 60.  
19          It's paid from two different funds, so that's  
20          my total contract amount.

21          CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: So why is it --  
22          well, I just don't understand why it would be  
23          \$12,000 under Township Assistance.

24          ATTORNEY WILLIAMS: I'm not sure.

25          MS. MILLER: I can answer that.

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1 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yeah, go ahead.

2 MS. MILLER: We have a budget for civil  
3 and we normally pay him out of civil, but if  
4 our appropriation is running out, then I will  
5 take it out of Township Assistance because  
6 he's the attorney for the whole entity.

7 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. No problem.

8 MR. PIGGEE: Okay.

9 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Next thing,  
10 Page 21, Dillon -- James Brandon Dillon doing  
11 business as the Dillon Law Firm, 3018. I  
12 want to know what legal services Mr. James  
13 Dillon is providing for us in 2021 for  
14 \$24,996. I saw his name the last few budgets  
15 in there, so I would like to know what  
16 service that the Dillon Law Firm is providing  
17 for the Township.

18 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Okay.

19 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Did you forget Carmen  
20 Wilson?

21 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: I already gave it  
22 to them about Carmen Wilson.

23 MR. PIGGEE: You did?

24 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yeah.

25 Page 22, Township Assistance, 11507,



1 Alger V. Boswell, III. I know he used to be  
2 legal counsel, as Attorney Williams said, but  
3 I seen the last couple years, including this  
4 year, he's been paid money. This time  
5 \$24,999.96. I just want to know the scope of  
6 Mr. Alger Boswell's work for 2021 and provide  
7 that to board members.

8 Sorry, Mr. Piggee, I was incorrect.

9 Page 22, 3041, Carmen W. Wilson. I'm  
10 assuming, if I'm correct, this is the husband  
11 of former Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson, and he  
12 has a contract of \$30,000. So I would like  
13 the board members to know Mr. Wilson's scope  
14 of work. I know in the budget he was given  
15 about 24, \$25,000 in 2020, but I don't know  
16 for what. I can't speak for Ms. Holmes.

17 So Mr. Piggee, do you know any scope of  
18 work?

19 MR. PIGGEE: None at all.

20 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. Just provide  
21 us with the scope of work, what he's doing  
22 for \$30,000 for the Township.

23 MR. PIGGEE: Could I ask a question?  
24 Does he still live in town, in Gary?

25 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Well, let me finish

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1 first, and you can ask some questions.

2 MR. PIGGEE: Okay.

3 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: The next one is  
4 Page 23, 5591, Ashley Dunlap. Provide us  
5 with the scope of work that Mr. Dunlap is  
6 doing for the Township. I believe in 2017,  
7 if this is the same Ashley Dunlap, he was  
8 indicted for using counterfeit securities.  
9 So I don't know if that's the same person,  
10 but if that's who it is, I would like to know  
11 what kind of business he's doing for the  
12 Township. And I think -- let me see.

13 Next item, Page 23, 55936, Karen  
14 Freeman-Wilson. I will assume this is the  
15 former mayor of the City of Gary. She  
16 received in 2021 \$2,793. I would like to  
17 know what type of business that former Mayor  
18 Karen Freeman-Wilson is providing for  
19 Township, seeing as she's doing quite well  
20 for herself with the Chicago Urban League.  
21 So I'd like to know the scope of her services  
22 for the Township.

23 Page 23, 5714, Robert L. Buggs, \$30,445.  
24 I don't know if this is the same Robert Buggs  
25 that represents us on the school board and

1 the current candidate for Township Board, but  
2 if that's the case, I would like to know what  
3 Mr. Robert L. Buggs -- what services and the  
4 scope of services he's providing for the  
5 Township. That's what I have right now.

6 Mr. Piggee, do you have any questions?

7 MR. PIGGEE: I was just -- I was very  
8 concerned because I don't see these people  
9 around much anymore, and I was just  
10 wondering, does someone still live in Gary  
11 or live in this township area? That's my  
12 concern. That's all I have to say.

13 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: That's all you got?

14 MR. PIGGEE: Uh-huh.

15 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. Another  
16 question I have.

17 Madam Trustee, are you currently driving  
18 your own vehicle, or do you drive a vehicle  
19 by the Township?

20 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I drive a vehicle  
21 that's furnished by the Township.

22 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: How long have you  
23 been driving that vehicle?

24 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Since '15 when I got  
25 here.

1 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Since '15, you've  
2 always driven a Township vehicle?

3 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes, sir.

4 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. I thought  
5 you was driving your own vehicle. I didn't  
6 know you was driving a Township vehicle.

7 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I do switch between my  
8 own and the Township.

9 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Well, based on the  
10 law, Indiana Code 36-6-4-4 and Indiana Code  
11 36-6-8-3, Township Vehicles and Buildings.  
12 It provides a Trustee may use a Township  
13 vehicle if authorized by the Township Board  
14 for official use. A trustee may not also  
15 claim mileage reimbursement when using a  
16 Township vehicle for official duties. A  
17 Township Trustee shall maintain a mileage log  
18 when using a Township vehicle.

19 So based on this law -- and I can provide  
20 it for you -- can you please provide for the  
21 Board, especially for 2021, your mileage log  
22 and when you use the vehicle because it was  
23 never brought to our attention to approve  
24 this so --

25 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: We did it in '15,

1 Mr. Washington.

2 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Huh?

3 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: We did it in '15,  
4 Mr. Washington. It doesn't say we have to do  
5 it every year.

6 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Well --

7 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: We did it in '15, when  
8 you were a board member as well.

9 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: That's a long time  
10 ago. That's a long time ago and a different  
11 board.

12 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Okay. Okay.

13 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: So it still says  
14 you have to provide that information.

15 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I got it. I got it.

16 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: If you could  
17 provide to me --

18 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: It's not a problem.  
19 If you put it in writing, I'll provide  
20 everything you ask for.

21 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Well, what I'm  
22 going to provide is what is for the record,  
23 and you can go back to the record and --

24 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: No. I need you to put  
25 it in writing. Sir, I asked you that from

1 the beginning. I asked you that from the  
2 beginning. You said okay.

3 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Well, that's not a  
4 statute that I have to put anything in  
5 writing. You have written everything down.

6 ATTORNEY WILLIAMS: I would advise you to  
7 consult with your attorney.

8 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: You say what?

9 ATTORNEY WILLIAMS: I would advise you to  
10 consult with your attorney as to the  
11 liberties in which the Board can request the  
12 information. It is absolutely within the  
13 statute that the information be reduced to  
14 writing as a formal request, that all  
15 information must be reduced to writing.

16 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Where is that in  
17 the statute?

18 ATTORNEY WILLIAMS: It's in the statute.  
19 Again, I'm not your legal counsel, but I'm  
20 sure if you defer to your counsel, she'll  
21 show you the statute.

22 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: You know what? I  
23 have no problem in providing it in writing.

24 ATTORNEY WILLIAMS: That's all.

25 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Also what I would

1 like provided in writing, if anybody on your  
2 team is related to anybody that is receiving  
3 services from contracts.

4 ATTORNEY WILLIAMS: On whose team?

5 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Well, anybody  
6 that's on the team, legal, township. If  
7 there's anybody here tonight that has a  
8 relative receiving a contract from the  
9 Township, and I will put that also in  
10 writing.

11 ATTORNEY WILLIAMS: Good enough.

12 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: You got anything  
13 else?

14 MR. PIGGEE: No. I'm good.

15 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: And there are some  
16 questionable expenses for 2020, but because  
17 this is 2021, I will put those also in  
18 writing and provide those to the attorney  
19 through my attorney, however you want it, but  
20 I'll provide that in writing.

21 And for record, I would like the board  
22 members to have some of those questionable  
23 expenses in 2020 also answered because it's  
24 related to 2021. That's all I have for that.  
25 Mr. Piggee?

1 MR. PIGGEE: Okay.

2 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Right now we're  
3 going to look at approving it, and what we're  
4 going to do with this is we're going to vote  
5 on this, but there's a portion --

6 MR. PIGGEE: Mr. Chair, do you think we  
7 should vote on this without the three board  
8 members?

9 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: No, no, no. We can  
10 vote on it. I just have to make sure that  
11 when we vote on it, I have to have my  
12 exceptions noted in the approval that this is  
13 written.

14 MR. PIGGEE: Okay.

15 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: So right now the  
16 Chair makes a motion for the approval of  
17 Resolution 2022-03, affirmation of the 2021  
18 annual report. Is there a second?

19 MR. PIGGEE: Second.

20 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: After a second, I  
21 would like to note in this, based on the  
22 resolution, when it comes to the portion of  
23 "This report was received, accepted and  
24 approved, except for the following parts."  
25 The parts that I read on the record that I



1 had concerns with, I do not vote for approval  
2 of those line items that I brought up before  
3 this entire body. And those can also be  
4 noted in this report. Outside of those  
5 exceptions, I will vote for this budget so it  
6 can go to Gateway. Roll call.

7 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Piggee?

8 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

9 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Washington?

10 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes. With two yes,  
11 the motion carries.

12 Item No. 6, Resolution 2022-04,  
13 authorizing a temporary loan from the Rainy  
14 Day Fund to the Civil Township Fund.

15 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Mr. Dalton.

16 MR. DALTON: Good evening, board members.

17 We see each other every couple of months.  
18 And at the beginning of the year we ask you  
19 to do an authorization for a temporary loan.  
20 That's what this is. At the end of the year  
21 we'll ask you to let us pay that temporary  
22 loan off. Remember, we're borrowing money  
23 from ourselves so we don't have to borrow  
24 from a bank and pay interest on that loan.  
25 So this is borrowing money from the Rainy Day

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1 Fund and putting it into the Civil Township  
2 Fund. It's merely a cash flow effort so we  
3 don't have to borrow from the bank.

4 MR. PIGGEE: I've got a question. How  
5 much money was it that we borrowed?

6 MR. DALTON: This is a request for a  
7 \$500,000 loan that would be paid back by the  
8 end of the year.

9 MR. PIGGEE: Okay. Half a million  
10 dollars?

11 MR. DALTON: Half a million dollars.

12 MR. PIGGEE: Okay.

13 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Any more questions?

14 MR. PIGGEE: No, I'm good.

15 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Thank you,  
16 Mr. Dalton.

17 Chair makes a motion for the approval of  
18 Resolution 2022-04, authorizing a temporary  
19 loan from the Rainy Day Fund to the Civil  
20 Township Fund. Is there a second?

21 MR. PIGGEE: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Roll call,  
23 Ms. Cunningham.

24 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Piggee?

25 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

1 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Washington?

2 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes. With two yes,  
3 the motion carries.

4 Item No. 7, Resolution 2022-05, adoption  
5 of a Capital Improvement Plan for the years  
6 2023-2025.

7 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: As you see as outlined  
8 in HEA 1177-2019. Township must adopt a  
9 Capital Improvement Plan if the Township's  
10 Capital Improvement Fund exceeds 150 percent  
11 of the Township's total annual budget and  
12 \$200,000.

13 We do not, but yet we still want to just  
14 have two capital outlay -- or Capital  
15 Improvement Plans on hand. We're still  
16 waiting for the complete assessments. One  
17 would come from Bloomfield, which handles our  
18 HVAC system. We'd like to get it turned over  
19 from the boiler that it has to a regular  
20 furnace-type situation so that it won't be so  
21 cold in here like it is.

22 And we're also looking to get an estimate  
23 from KONE, the elevator operators, to see  
24 just how much it would be for us to get a  
25 whole new elevator since we've had problems

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1 from both systems because this is an old  
2 building. And these are the -- I'm not sure  
3 if the elevator is original, but I know the  
4 HVAC system is and because it would make more  
5 sense to have a complete rehab of it rather  
6 than having to call people every other month  
7 when something goes wrong. But we will  
8 absolutely present those two estimates, one  
9 from KONE Elevator and one from Bloomfield.  
10 Those are the companies that were here. And  
11 I believe, I would say, that they're the only  
12 companies in the area who work on this  
13 magnitude of HVAC system and an elevator. So  
14 we will absolutely show the proposals to the  
15 Board before we act upon them.

16 MR. PIGGEE: Madam Trustee?

17 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yes.

18 MR. PIGGEE: When are they supposed to  
19 act upon this?

20 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: We're not acting upon  
21 it. We're just -- if we get something that  
22 you guys approve, we will, you know, bring  
23 them to you. And if you guys say it's okay  
24 for us to do, we would act as soon as they  
25 could do the work.

1 MR. PIGGEE: Because I was on the  
2 elevator one time when it stopped.

3 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Right. So you know.

4 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Any more questions,  
5 Mr. Piggee?

6 MR. PIGGEE: No, I'm fine.

7 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Attorney Monroe?

8 ATTORNEY MONROE: No.

9 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: The Chair makes a  
10 motion for approval of Resolution 2022-05,  
11 adoption of the Capital Improvement Plan for  
12 the years 2023 to 2025. Is there a second?

13 MR. PIGGEE: Second.

14 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Roll call,  
15 Ms. Cunningham.

16 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Piggee?

17 MR. PIGGEE: Yes.

18 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Washington?

19 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes. With two  
20 yeas, the motion carries.

21 Item No. 8 we are going to pull that  
22 resolution until Ms. Holmes can be here, for  
23 the electronic meetings. We would like for  
24 all three board members to be able to read  
25 through that and be able to approve that at a

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1 public meeting.

2 MR. PIGGEE: Good, good.

3 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Next item, public  
4 comments, Item No. 9. Are there any public  
5 comments?

6 If so, would you stand behind the  
7 microphone and introduce yourself. Say your  
8 name.

9 MR. BUGGS: Good afternoon. My name is  
10 Robert L. Buggs, and I am the Robert L. Buggs  
11 that's on the school board. I'm also the  
12 Robert L. Buggs that was a landlord, which  
13 the court referred me to the Trustee's office  
14 for assistance and that assistance was  
15 rendered. Now, I don't know why the board  
16 needs to know the tenant's name unless you're  
17 ordered to, but it seems to be a lot of  
18 contention tonight. I wonder if all of these  
19 things came up tonight as being important as  
20 to who did what and when in February of 2022.  
21 I know it's been a long time since I've been  
22 to one of these meetings.

23 By the way, I'm also the Robert L. Buggs  
24 that's running for the Township Trustee. I  
25 know you asked me why was I running.

1 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Not Trustee.

2 MR. PIGGEE: Not Trustee. For the board.

3 MR. BUGGS: I mean for the Township  
4 Trustee Board, Board. Sorry.

5 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I wanted you to get it  
6 right.

7 MR. BUGGS: Sorry, sorry, sorry. It's  
8 just been a long time since I've been to one  
9 of these meetings, but there seems to be a  
10 lot of contention. I was just wondering why,  
11 since I heard my name, I thought I want to  
12 get up here and explain why.

13 But I want to ask a question. Is it  
14 against the law for a landlord to, even if  
15 it's referred by the court to get assistance  
16 from a place that provide that assistance, is  
17 that a source of contention? Is it illegal  
18 or something? I want to know.

19 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Well, Mr. Buggs,  
20 we're not here to answer your questions. I  
21 made the questions known to the Trustee, and  
22 I don't know the reasons why, but she will  
23 get back to us and let us know what the  
24 reason was. So thank you for what you told  
25 us, but you're not the Trustee, and we

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1 provided the information to her. You can  
2 say anything on record that you want to say,  
3 but I --

4 MR. BUGGS: Yeah, I just want to --

5 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Let me finish.

6 MR. BUGGS: Okay.

7 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: I've already asked  
8 her to give me that information. So if you  
9 want to say whatever you want to say on  
10 record, you're free to do that.

11 MR. BUGGS: Well, I'll give you that  
12 information. That's what it's for, so that's  
13 the answer to that, but I wanted to know from  
14 you, why does the Board need to know the  
15 tenant's name? And is it illegal for a  
16 landlord to receive services from the  
17 Township Trustee's office? You asked that  
18 question.

19 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Well --

20 MR. PIGGEE: We didn't ask for no name.

21 MR. BUGGS: Yes, he did. He asked for  
22 the name.

23 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Mr. Buggs, your  
24 name is on --

25 MR. PIGGEE: Your name.



1 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Mr. Piggee, let me  
2 respond.

3 MR. PIGGEE: Okay.

4 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Your name is on the  
5 budget for 2021. I asked the Trustee to  
6 provide the reason why your name was on  
7 there, for a reason to explain it. That's  
8 it.

9 MR. PIGGEE: That's all.

10 MR. BUGGS: I remember you saying we need  
11 to know who's staying there.

12 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: We're not talking  
13 about that. We're talking about you.

14 MR. BUGGS: Well, it came under the same  
15 subject.

16 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: But it came under  
17 you. I asked the question. That's basically  
18 it. If you got anything else regarding your  
19 comments, that's all I'm going to say about  
20 it. Okay?

21 MR. BUGGS: No, it's not okay. It's  
22 strange.

23 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Anybody else would  
24 like to provide public comments for the  
25 meeting this evening? Hearing none.

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1 Madam Trustee, good evening.

2 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Good evening. I just  
3 want to clarify what Mr. Buggs was saying.  
4 He actually is the vendor as well, and those  
5 are for rents that he has been paid for his  
6 tenants. So that is that. And I will  
7 certainly put that in writing as well.

8 Any other question he had, I cannot  
9 confirm, but I know that he is a tenant -- I  
10 mean he is a landlord that we pay rents  
11 through for a tenant. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Is that it?

13 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Yep.

14 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Mr. Piggee, any  
15 comments?

16 MR. PIGGEE: First of all, I'd like to  
17 wish all of you young ladies, happy  
18 Valentine's Day. You can go home and look at  
19 your flowers and eat your candy now in a few  
20 minutes.

21 But it's a very interesting meeting.  
22 When we read out reports from past meetings  
23 and the present meeting, we have to  
24 understand what is being done because the  
25 Board is responsible just like the Madam

1 Township. She's responsible just like we  
2 are. So this is the reason we ask these  
3 types of questions because we want to know.  
4 We don't want anybody to get in trouble.

5 And that's a concern of ours. That's a  
6 concern of mine, our attorney and the  
7 President and Ms. Holmes. We have a concern  
8 because that's the reason people voted us in,  
9 to keep track on a lot of this stuff that's  
10 going on. So that's the whole thing right  
11 there in a nutshell.

12 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Thank you. I don't  
14 speak for Ms. Holmes. I don't speak for  
15 Mr. Piggee. I speak for myself. And just to  
16 provide comments about education about being  
17 a township board member, there's no  
18 contention. There has been questions asked  
19 before about previous budgets, about  
20 questionable expenses.

21 So to explain to the public what happens  
22 is that the Township Board, as we have been  
23 told several times, that we have very little  
24 authority when it comes to certain services.  
25 And so when we pass the budget every year, we

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1 don't know how the money is going to be  
2 spent. We only find out what the money is  
3 spent on when we receive the budget in  
4 totality and when we have to approve it to go  
5 to Gateway.

6 So when we go to Gateway -- before we go  
7 to Gateway, we get a list of expenditures.  
8 So when we go through the process of  
9 approving the budget for the year, we don't  
10 know what the money is going to be -- we know  
11 how much, but we don't know the vendors that  
12 are providing services.

13 So when we receive this, there are some  
14 items that we want to have questions on  
15 because the board literally has no authority  
16 when it comes to bids or when it comes to  
17 deciding who's going to provide certain  
18 services.

19 So when I see certain names on here, it  
20 raises an eyebrow. It raises an eyebrow to  
21 cronyism. It raises an eyebrow providing  
22 contracts to people and us not knowing what  
23 they're doing for the Township.

24 And let me make this clear. I'm not  
25 saying that the services that these

1 individuals are providing are not necessary.  
2 What I'm telling you is that this Board has  
3 not been given an opportunity to hear from  
4 these people or get reports about these  
5 different consultants, these different  
6 individuals that are providing services. If  
7 we knew what they did -- like, I'll give you  
8 an example.

9 We see fourth district councilwoman Ty  
10 Atkins on here. I don't know what Ty Atkins  
11 did for the Township. Nobody told us she was  
12 consulting with us. Nobody told us how her  
13 services were benefiting the Township. And I  
14 see it in 2021. Her services may be  
15 legitimate. But unfortunately, the Board was  
16 not told. I know I wasn't told and there was  
17 no presentation.

18 Carmen Wilson, who's the husband of  
19 former Karen Freeman-Wilson. I don't know  
20 what Mr. Wilson did. I'm not saying his  
21 services were not legitimate services needed  
22 by the Township. But the Board -- at least I  
23 didn't. I don't know what Jackie knew, and I  
24 don't know what Mr. Piggee knew. But I  
25 didn't know he was providing services for the

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1 last two years, maybe longer than that.  
2 Maybe if a presentation would have come  
3 before us on what they were doing or  
4 something like that, to let the Board know,  
5 then we would be clear. I would say, okay, I  
6 know about this because they came before the  
7 Board and they provided services.

8 So everybody on here that I asked  
9 questions about -- and I've gotten criticism  
10 in the past when I've asked for a vendor list  
11 and I ask other certain questions, but I'm  
12 going to keep asking questions. So when I  
13 see questionable expenses that's being paid  
14 with taxpayers' dollars, I owe it not only to  
15 you as taxpayers but to make sure that these  
16 services are being provided. So I will  
17 provide my detailed questions again in  
18 writing and provide them to the Trustee so  
19 all board members can get some answers.

20 My concern is, my time on this board,  
21 that the law that's in question does not  
22 provide transparency. We have been told by  
23 opposing counsel on different occasions that  
24 there are certain things that the Trustee  
25 doesn't have to come to us about. That's

1 fine. I don't debate the law. But what I do  
2 say when it comes to transparency, that the  
3 Township Trustee and the Board should be in  
4 unison and the Board should know every single  
5 thing -- not every single thing because I  
6 don't come to this office. I don't tell  
7 people what to do. I don't tell them who to  
8 hire. And when I see things, I'm going to  
9 ask a question.

10 Folks can get mad if they want to, but  
11 I'm going to ask the questions because things  
12 in this 2021, it looks very questionable.  
13 I'm going to submit some questions for 2022  
14 because I saw an item that was interesting,  
15 and it was for, I think, a Dr. Williams about  
16 some hair transplants. I don't know what it  
17 is, if anybody is getting hair transplants,  
18 and I don't know what the deal is, but I will  
19 provide -- yes, I will provide it to you in  
20 the 2022 budget because I looked the person  
21 up, and I was like, hair transplants? What  
22 is this?

23 And you're looking at me like I'm crazy,  
24 but I'm just telling you, I'm kind of  
25 educated a little bit. And that's why when

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1           you look at me like that, that's why I want  
2           to provide it to you because there may be a  
3           reasonable answer to that. But we don't know  
4           things because we don't have that many board  
5           meetings. So I won't get into a tit for tat  
6           for that.

7           But Mr. Buggs, if you're successful in  
8           being on this board, because I won't be on  
9           the board anymore, this is your lesson  
10          tonight to understand, it's nothing against  
11          what you're doing. When we see names and  
12          things that we have questions about, I have a  
13          right to ask any questions that I want to  
14          ask. And if I want to know who the person is  
15          receiving Township, there's no HIPAA laws  
16          protecting that. I'm not going to post it.  
17          I have a right to know who the person was.

18          We provide services, but if at any time a  
19          board member wants to know who is actually  
20          receiving the services, I'm paying with my  
21          tax dollars, you're paying with yours, and we  
22          can -- I can see that. I can know that. So  
23          again, when things become questionable,  
24          people that are doing certain things, it may  
25          be a reasonable answer, but if you don't ask,



1           you don't know.

2           MR. PIGGEE: Exactly.

3           CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: So you know, it's a  
4 lot of other questions I'll put in writing  
5 and everything. I thank you guys for coming  
6 out tonight. And there are a lot of  
7 questions that I do have, and I'll provide  
8 those in writing, but there's a lot of  
9 concerns when I see certain names on here,  
10 and I would say publicly, the Board did not  
11 know that many of these people were providing  
12 services to the Township.

13           And so, again, they can respond  
14 accordingly, but I need to put my -- put this  
15 down on the record because there's been some  
16 concerns about that.

17           TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Mr. Chairman, I have a  
18 question for you.

19           CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: What?

20           TRUSTEE ROBINSON: I have a question.

21           CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Yes.

22           TRUSTEE ROBINSON: So I'd like to correct  
23 you and just stop the confusion in that what  
24 we're presenting today is the annual report.  
25 You keep calling it a budget, and it's the

1 annual report that we just have to submit to  
2 the Board on the annual expenses. So just --  
3 I just wanted to get this straight.

4 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Well, Ms. Robinson,  
5 let me explain something to you. I let you  
6 speak as the Trustee. I didn't ask for you  
7 to interject. Based on what we are  
8 reporting, it's still -- the budget is  
9 included in that.

10 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: It is not. Okay. I  
11 have two more things.

12 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: No, no, it's not  
13 two more things because you had time to  
14 speak, and you didn't speak. And you said  
15 you guys would provide me what you need to do  
16 in writing.

17 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: It was just a question  
18 in what you said. So it is our duty then to  
19 present this annual report to Gateway. I was  
20 just trying to be clear in did you want us to  
21 present it until you got your answers, or did  
22 you want us to not put it on Gateway until  
23 you -- that's all I have, sir.

24 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: Okay. And I'm  
25 going to respond to you with that. I made it

1 very clear before we passed the motion,  
2 there's a part in the motion that I chose to  
3 put my comments saying that everything I said  
4 on record I stated that I was unapproval of,  
5 but I will vote for the budget going into  
6 Gateway.

7 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Okay.

8 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: That's what I said  
9 on the record. I'm not by no means -- we  
10 already passed Gateway -- this report going  
11 to Gateway. That's already been done and  
12 approved of.

13 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: Okay.

14 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: And it was noted  
15 that my exceptions that I'm not supporting, I  
16 put those in, but I vote for it going into  
17 Gateway. Any other questions?

18 TRUSTEE ROBINSON: We're good.

19 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All right. Thank  
20 you, Madam Trustee.

21 The Chair would like to entertain a  
22 motion for adjournment.

23 MR. PIGGEE: So moved.

24 CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: All in favor,  
25 signify by saying aye.

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THE BOARD: Aye.

CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: There's no nays.

The ayes have it. The motion carries.

(MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 6:35 PM.)

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

3 THE CALUMET TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
 4  
 5 GARY, INDIANA

6  
 7 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE  
 8

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

17  
 18 Signed this 23rd day of February, 2022.

19  
 20 

21 /s/ Kristen K. Stokes  
 KRISTEN K. STOKES  
 22 CSR# 084-003723

23 My Commission Expires: 8/27/23  
 24 County of Residence: Lake

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

4 THE CALUMET Township Board MEETING  
5 GARY, INDIANA

6  
7 These minutes of the Calumet Township Board  
8 meeting held on February 14, 2022, were approved by  
9 the Board of Trustees on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of  
10 February, 2022.

11  
12  
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14 \_\_\_\_\_  
Darren Washington, Board Chairman

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16  
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18 \_\_\_\_\_  
James Piggee, Board Member

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	accordingly (1) 40:14	35:4	21:1,2;24:18	15:14;34:19
\$	accounting (1) 7:14	approved (2) 23:24;42:12	behind (1) 29:6	Buggs (21) 17:23,24;18:3; 29:9,10,10,12,23; 30:3,7,19;31:4,6,11, 21,23;32:10,14,21; 33:3;39:7
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\$13,785.27 (1) 8:21	acting (1) 27:20	area (2) 18:11;27:12	bids (1) 35:16	Buildings (1) 19:11
\$15,949.13 (1) 10:9	actually (3) 13:24;33:4;39:19	around (1) 18:9	bills (1) 6:11	Business (10) 8:11,11;9:23;10:7, 7;11:15;13:9;15:11; 17:11,17
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