

## **ST. JOHN TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, August 4, 2025; 5:30 P.M.**

**St. John Township Community Center, 1515 W. Lincoln Highway, Schererville, IN 46375  
Main Meeting Room**

Meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Chairman, Lisa Elder, and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **PRESENT:**

#### **BOARD MEMBERS**

- Lisa Elder, Chairman
- Michael Quigley, Secretary
- Eric J. Stanich, Member

#### **TRUSTEE**

- Cathy J. Lareau

#### **TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY**

- Adam J. Sedia

## **REPORTS**

### **1. Trustee Report**

Lareau was notified by the election board today there was going to be a special election for a Referendum for Lake Central School Corporation on November 4<sup>th</sup>. They want to use the community center as a voting sight. The Township closes the office and the employees are normally off when there is an election in the building. The Board is not voting on this now but Lareau questioned whether the Board would consider closing the office as when there were past elections at the Community Center. Lareau explained there is usually a custodian and one employee present to open and lock the building. Elder asked that this matter be put on the August 26, 2025, agenda.

Lareau stated the next two items on the agenda stem from the new legislation that was passed this year. This includes House Bill 1461 and Senate Bill 1.

### **2. Attorney Report**

Attorney Sedia stated his report includes agenda items which will be explained later in the meeting.

### **3. Board Reports**

None

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Capital Improvement Plan for CY 2026-2028**

Lareau and the Township Financial Assistant explained in detail the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). There will be a public hearing held at the August 26 meeting regarding the CIP and it will be adopted at the same meeting if there are no remonstrances. As required by legislation, the CIP will go before the County for their review at their August 12, 2025, meeting. Lareau explained the process for the plan begins with the budget in order for the numbers to be fed into the CIP. She explained all that needs to take place before the CIP can be completed and the difficulties of meeting the August 12 deadline to have the CIP to the County. Attorney Sedia stated there was an existing Statute IC 36-6-9-11 which provided that certain townships that meet a certain growth threshold requirement had to pass a Capital Improvement Plan, have a public hearing on it, and submit the plan to the County Council for review. This references another Statute that says the County Council has to review the calculation from DLGF of each unit's levy in that county at its first August meeting. By incorporation, the plan had to go before the County Council by its first August meeting. Then HB1461 came along this past session stating these requirements for the CIP are now being extended to every township. The problem was the HB1461 passed and nobody took into account the existing statutes on the books. When this new legislation went into effect at the beginning of July, there already was a requirement that there must be a public hearing which is subject to a ten-day publication notice and it has to be submitted to the County Council by its first August meeting, which in Lake County is August 12, 2025. That gave every township in Lake County a total of 43 days from the effective date of the legislation to hold a hearing, prepare Capital Improvement Plan, give attending notice, hold a hearing, and send it to the county council which is an unrealistic time line. The statute that requires the plan to go before the council just says the plan has to be presented. It does not require their approval and it does not even have to be the same plan that this Board approves. Sedia explained what the Board is being asked is to accept this CIP as a matter of record so it can be forwarded to the County Council in time. There will be a notice of the public hearing and plan adoption at a later date. The actual adoption by the Board will follow the September 30, 2025, deadline that HB 1461 specifies. Lareau and Sedia explained the DLGF is trying to figure all of this out just as much as the Townships are. Lareau also stated the public hearing being held is different from a budget public hearing in that the public hearing as well as the adoption are held the same night. Lareau then reiterated the Board must approve the Capital Improvement Plan with the Public Hearing and Adoption by September 30, 2025. If this deadline is not met, the Township will lose its levy for next year. Rather than wait until the September Board Meeting, Lareau expressed it was best to get the Board's approval on this at the August Board meeting. Lareau stated the legislature requires all unrestricted funds are considered to go towards the New Road and Infrastructure Fund. The unrestricted funds consist of the Rainy Day and General Fund. Whatever monies not budgeted for the next calendar year or not earmarked for a capital improvement plan or something specific will have 30% of that total transferred by the Board before the end of the year to the Road and Infrastructure Fund. Lareau stated when the HB1461 first started, it had the wrong assumption that Townships were sitting on a lot of money. Initially the Bill required that every township transfer 30% of the 2025 budget as of July 1, 2025 to this road fund. It would have meant the Township would not have been able to fund the remainder of the 2025 Budget that had gone through the entire budget process and received DLGF approval. The Township Financial Assistant explained the CIP plan to the Board. Lareau explained the monies from the Roads and Infrastructure Fund must be used in our Township which includes the Towns of Dyer, Schererville, St. John and unincorporated. They, along with the County, could come to the Board and request to enter into a Memo of Understanding (MOU) to use the monies from that fund for one of their projects. The Board then can accept it or reject it.

**Elder accepted the Capital Improvement Plan for CY 2026-2028 as a matter of record.**

**2. Resolution 2025-08 Creating Roads and Infrastructure Fund**

Sedia stated this resolution was the other part of what Lareau just explained to the Board. Because the statute requires the percentage goes into this fund, a fund needs to be created. Sedia went over the Section 3 of the resolution and a brief discussion of this Section 3 followed.

Quigley made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-08 Creating Roads and Infrastructure Fund. Stanich seconded the motion.

**Elder called for a vote. Motion carried 3-0.**

**3. Live Streaming Link of Meeting: <http://www.youtube.com/@stjohntownshiptrustee.com>**

This was pointed out. There were no questions.

**CITIZEN INPUT**

Citizen Sedia expressed he hoped our legislatures were currently listening to this meeting.

**ANY AND ALL OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE TOWNSHIP BOARD**

**1. The next Regular meeting and Capital Improvement Plan Public Hearing of the Township Board to be held Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.**

**2. Other**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Quigley made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Stanich seconded the motion.

**Elder called for a vote. Motion carried 3-0.**

**Meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m.**

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Lisa Elder, Chairman

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Michael Quigley, Secretary

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Eric J. Stanich, Member

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Submitted and attested by Cathy J. Lareau, Trustee