

ST. JOHN TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 24, 2026; 6:00 P.M.

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

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 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

NOT PRESENT:

LAKE HILLS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.

- Steve Michalak, Fire Chief
- Tom VanVleet, Deputy Chief
- Missy Michalak, Lake Hills Board President

CITIZEN INPUT

None

REPORTS

1. Fire Department Reports

a. Lake Hills Fire Department January 2026 Financial Reports, January 2026 Calls and EMS Reports

Elder and Lareau stated Chief Michalak, Deputy Chief VanVleet and Lake Hills Board President, Michalak were not present. Lareau pointed out on the financial reports that Lake Hills and the Township had both made purchases to McQueen in January and clarified they were not duplicate charges. There were no questions.

Elder accepted the Lake Hills Fire Department January 2026 Financial Reports, January 2026 Calls and EMS Reports as a matter of record.

2. Trustee Report

Lareau reiterated that there have been two bills during this year's legislative session: HB 1315 and SB 270. HB 1315 did not get a hearing in the Senate and died. SB 270 passed the third reading in the House today. There were two amendments in SB270 that does not impact St. John Township or any townships in Lake County. Lareau explained the two amendments. She stated SB 270 is based on

points/performance and townships are only affected if they score points of four or more. St. John Township may only get one point regarding managing or funding a fire department. There is not clarity on the verbiage yet for this point. Lareau stated if the township has to manage the fire department, we would get one point for not managing it. She added St. John Township complies with all the requirements but the townships that do not comply with the requirements get points. Senator Niemeyer, the author of SB 270, had said there is verbiage in this bill that allows townships, if they know they are going to fail the point system, time to voluntarily merge with another township. Lareau pointed out that the author of HB 1315 is now the cosponsor of SB 270 with the sponsor, Representative Slager. Attorney Sedia explained the process SB 270 must go through to pass. Lareau stated because the author of SB 270 and the Indiana Township Association were part of the verbiage with the two amendments, the likelihood of SB 270 passing in the Senate is very high. There were no questions.

Lareau lastly stated there is a process for the Township to get the alcohol permit. After the Executive Financial Assistant submits the paperwork, a hearing is conducted. The Township gets notice of this hearing and has a choice to attend. Attorney Sedia will be present at this hearing on March 4, 2026, in the Commissioner's Court Room to represent the Township.

3. Attorney Report

Attorney Sedia explained everything he had to say was already covered in the Trustee Report and the Executive Session.

4. Board Reports

None

OLD BUSINESS

1. Approval of January 27, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

Quigley made a motion to approve the January 27, 2026 Board Meeting minutes as submitted. Stanich seconded the motion.

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

NEW BUSINESS

1. Township Assistance Report January 2026

Lareau pointed out the total number of requests for Township Assistance was only nine. However, there were thirty-four phone inquiries for assistance which is a process of asking various questions. Some questions asked are their address to establish if they are a resident of our township and their need for assistance. If they are a St. John Township resident, they are then explained the process to apply with the Township. This usually takes a minimum of fifteen minutes. There was a brief discussion of how these phone inquiries are documented. Lareau stated a Net Results representative will be creating a video clarifying how the numbers are calculated for the Township Assistant Report and sending it to her. The Net Results representative then suggested meeting up with teams to discuss this video. Lareau, as the Lake County Coordinator for the Indiana Township Association (ITA), is working with the Area Coordinator Director from ITA to bring training for other trustees in the area to our Community Center for clarification of how the numbers feed into the Township Assistance Report. Lareau informed the Board January also had seventeen appointments for assistance that were cancelled or they didn't call to

cancel or just didn't show up for their scheduled appointment. In addition to these numbers, there were three evictions stopped out of the nine requests for township assistance, one burial assistance and one night of emergency shelter assistance.

Elder accepted the Township Assistance Report January 2026 as a matter of record.

2. Township Financial Reports January 2026

Lareau pointed out the Fund Balance sheets for both banks are good and the high interest rate at Trust Indiana.

Elder accepted the Township Financial Report January 2026 as a matter of record.

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

1. Other

None

2. The next scheduled meeting of the Township Board to be held Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Center Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Meeting was adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Lisa Elder, Chairman

Michael Quigley, Secretary

Eric J. Stanich, Member

Submitted and Attested by Cathy J. Lareau, Trustee