

ST. JOHN TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 23, 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 6:38 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 Van Vleet, Deputy Chief
- Missy Michalak, Lake Hills Board President

CITIZEN INPUT

None

REPORTS

1. Fire Department Reports

a. Lake Hills Fire Department April & May 2026 Financial Reports, April & May 2026 Calls & EMS Reports

Lareau confirmed that the checking and savings account fund balances match and reconcile perfectly. The definition of a 10-50 PI call was briefly discussed.

Elder accepted the Lake Hills Fire Department April & May 2026 Financial Reports, April & May 2026 Calls & EMS Reports as a matter of record.

2. Trustee Report

Lareau noted that under [Indiana Code 32-26-5](#), the township trustee holds the authority to settle "Live Fence" (hedge) disputes between adjoining landowners. Having received a request regarding this

matter, Trustee Lareau conducted a site visit at the property in question, accompanied by Attorney Sedia, and subsequently reviewed the formal resolution process with the Board.

Lareau informed the Board the Township is partnering with the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana to host a Disaster Response Mobile Mini Market. This event will support tornado victims at the Township facility on June 26, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.

Lareau stated she was contacted the night of the tornado by the Emergency Services and Homeland Security requesting the use of the Township bus to help transport tornado victims to the shelter. She was able to secure one of the Township bus drivers to drive the bus and who worked from 11:00 p.m. to about 2:00 a.m.

Lareau also added the Town of Dyer requested the use of the Township bus for the annual Dyer Fest, scheduled for the second weekend in June. Attorney Sedia drafted an agreement establishing the agreed-upon rate and a mandatory stipulation requiring the use of a Township-employed driver. This agreement mirrors the framework previously established with the Dyer Fire Department. This approved form is available for future requesting of shuttle services. Board approval is not required for this agreement.

3. Attorney Report

Attorney Sedia updated the Board and Trustee on the pending tax appeal. The tax court judge has set oral argument. We don't have an actual scheduling order yet, but we are looking at August 21, 2026. Attorney will update the Board and Trustee on the actual order.

Attorney Sedia went over the Indiana Code 32-26-5 regarding the Live Fence Dispute that Lareau noted in the Trustee Report and the actual recent complaint and the process that was taken. It was concluded by Lareau and Sedia that the complaint 1) did not fall within the statutory definition and 2) the berm, according to both property owners, served as storm water control purpose. It wasn't strictly a fence, but a storm water control device which is regulated by the town. Lareau and Sedia did meet on the properties after a storm to confirm and verify if this was a storm water control device. It was visible it did keep storm water on one side of the berm. Therefore, Lareau stated it is less of a fence and more of a storm water control device. Sedia doesn't anticipate any further action on this complaint. He wanted to make the Board aware this is one of the Trustees duties. Lareau, herself, clarified one of the trustee's responsibilities is to solve a live fence dispute anywhere in the township.

4. Board Reports

None

CORRESPONDENCE

Lareau informed the Board that the Baker Tilly correspondence pertained to TIF districts, specifically regarding the statutory requirement to notify all affected taxing units within those districts. Attorney Sedia explained there is going to be a proposed quarter billion-dollar development between Central Park and Calumet Avenue in Dyer. This will include big box stores, a hotel, residences, and townhomes. Sedia explained the purpose of a TIF district. He noted that upon the creation of a TIF District, mandatory notice must be distributed to all interested parties listed in the documentation. The public hearing is noted for July 2, 2026. If the Board takes action directing the Township to attend the meeting

to voice any given opinion, the Board is welcome to. Otherwise, the Board can accept this correspondence as a matter of record. There were no comments.

Elder accepted the correspondence from Baker Tilly as a matter of record.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Approval of April 28, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

There were no questions.

Quigley made a motion to approve the April 28, 2026 Board Meeting minutes as submitted. Stanich seconded the motion.

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

2. Approval of April 28, 2026 Executive Board Meeting Minutes

There were no questions.

Stanich made a motion to approve the April 28, 2026 Executive Board Meeting minutes as submitted. Quigley seconded the motion.

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

NEW BUSINESS

1. Township Assistance Reports April & May 2026

There were no questions.

Elder accepted the Township Assistance Reports April & May 2026 as a matter of record.

2. Township Financial Reports April & May 2026

Lareau noted that the closing grand totals on the Fund Balance Sheets for both Trust Indiana and Centier Bank match perfectly, confirming that the accounts are fully balanced. There were no questions.

Elder accepted the Financial Reports April & May 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 determined in the Community Center Hall.

There was discussion regarding a possible date for the next board meeting.

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 6:59 p.m.

Lisa Elder, Chairman

Michael Quigley, Secretary

Eric J. Stanich, Member

Submitted and attested by Cathy J. Lareau, Trustee