

## ST. JOHN TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday, March 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 6:02 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 VIA PHONE**

- Adam J. Sedia

#### **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 February 2026 Financial Reports, February 2026 Calls and EMS Reports**

Michalak, Lake Hills Board President, stated the financial reports looked good. The headphones for the trucks and drafting equipment were two of the bigger purchases for the month of February using the money from the fundraiser letter. Chief Michalak went over the February Calls and EMS Reports. He added there is a new volunteer prospect and one in the academy graduating at the end of June or beginning of July. There was discussion regarding the pictures of the new ALS ambulance included in the board meeting folders. The total price was a little over \$12,000 under budget. It will be picked up on April 27, 2026 and should be ready for service about a week after. It does not need a state inspection due to it being a replacement of an ambulance and not an additional ambulance. Chief Michalak announced there will be a gathering with the Township included to present the new ambulance. **Elder accepted the Lake Hills Fire Department February 2026 Financial Reports, February 2026 Calls and EMS Reports as a matter of record.**

#### **2. Trustee Report**

Lareau gave an update on the Blue Envelope Program. Everything has been printed and they will be distributed to the three police departments, the Township and the BMV. She went over the contents of

the envelope. Chief Michalak briefly explained the Yellow Dot Program Griffith has implemented and stated it is very similar to the Blue Envelope Program. This Yellow Dot Program makes first responders aware of the driver's overall medical information. Lareau stated St. John Township is only the second township in the state to implement the Blue Envelope Program.

Lareau informed the Board she has started a 2027 preseason budget meeting with the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) representative today. They discussed changes in ways forms must be submitted, Capital Improvement Plan and Senate Bill 270.

Lareau discussed the upcoming DAV Walk status. The DAV representatives and Lareau will be going to the Town Council meetings to extend an invitation to the DAV Walk. The Town of Schererville co-hosts the walk along with DAV and the Township.

Lareau went over the State of Indiana DLGF Continuing Education Credit Form included in the Board member's folders. This lists the course she participated in which will be uploaded into Gateway to the DLGF and State Board of Accounts along with being retained in a file. Lareau presented this to the Board because this form reads to "Retain your records and/or submit them to your oversight body". She stated a Trustee is required now to have so many hours of continuing education credit. Proof the trustees are complying will be found in Gateway.

Lareau stated Attorney Sedia went to the hearing for the alcohol and tobacco permit. There were no issues and the permit was renewed.

### **3. Attorney Report**

Attorney Sedia attended the local liquor board hearing at the Trustee's request, despite there being no requirement to do since no issues were anticipated. His presence ensured that no concerns arose during the proceeding. The permit remains valid for another year.

The brief for the pending tax court appeal is coming due on Friday. Sedia explained the process. He will give a draft to the Trustee for review and then can move forward with the filing. Sedia expects a decision by summer.

Sedia noted that, in addition to SB 270, he will provide the Board with updates on any other statutes that may impact the Township by June, prior to their effective date of July 1, 2026.

### **4. Board Reports**

None

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. Approval of February 24, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes**

Quigley made a motion to approve the February 24, 2026 Board Meeting minutes.

Stanich seconded the motion.

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

## **2. Approval of February 24, 2026 Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

Stanich made a motion to approve the February 24, 2026 Executive Board Meeting Minutes. Quigley seconded the motion.

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

## **3. SB 270 Update**

Lareau informed the Board she is updating all the town councils on SB 270. She has been asked from a fire chief and an elected official what the impact of this bill is going to make on the Township. Since this bill affects Townships, Lareau wanted the town councils to hear from her directly that we will not be impacted by SB 270. Lareau explained to the Board she gives an overview to the councils on this bill along with explaining her involvement in the legislative hearings. Lareau then went over the SB 270 which is based on a point system. It is indicative to issues the State has had with some townships that are running inefficiently. This point system is based on the Township's performances and whether or not they are compliant with State Board of Accounts (SBOA) and the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) requirements by the state. She used the St. John Township data within her explanation of the point system to demonstrate that the Township does not meet the criteria to be considered for a merger. There will be approximately a little over 300 Townships out of over 1,000 Townships that will be forced to merge as a result of this point system. After a few minor amendments, this bill was signed by the Governor on March 5, 2026. There was a brief discussion regarding clarification of why the St. John Township is considered not actively managing the Lake Hills Fire Department within the township. Lareau stated her understanding is because the Township is not in the day-to-day management of the fire department and that is why the Township would only get that one point under SB 270. It is more like a partnership between Lake Hills and the Township. Lareau stated there was a little confusion among the legislators regarding this specific assigned point to townships. She believes this may get cleaned up by next legislation.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Township Assistance Report February 2026**

Lareau explained things generally slow down around this time of the year due to tax season and tax returns being distributed. She added an eviction had been stopped today. There were no questions.

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

### **2. Township Financial Reports February 2026**

Lareau addressed several bank errors and went over the supporting documentation verifying the errors had been resolved. She added both banks have the same cash available and both reconciled.

**Elder accepted the Township Financial Reports February 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, April 28, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Center Hall.**

**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 6:38 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