

ST. JOHN TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025; 7:00 P.M.

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

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 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

LAKE HILLS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.

- Tom Van Vleet, Deputy Chief

NOT PRESENT:

LAKE HILLS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.

- Steve Michalak, Fire Chief
- Missy Michalak, Lake Hills Board President

REPORTS

1. Fire Department Reports

a. Lake Hills Fire Department August 2025 Financial Reports, August 2025 Calls & EMS Reports

Lareau made the Board aware they will only be reviewing and accepting the August 2025 Calls & EMS Reports due to the Lake Hills Board Chair having reconciliation issues with one of the financial accounts. The August Financial Reports will be tabled to the next October 14, 2025 Board meeting. Deputy Chief VanVleet went over the August 2025 Calls & EMS Reports. It was discussed why some of the numbers were hand written in the EMS Report. Lareau commented how there were more ALS transports than BLS transports on the EMS Report. Deputy Chief Van Vleet explained a lot of the out-of-town calls are ALS. He stated the fire departments are still short-handed and when they are down to zero ambulances, Lake Hills gets the call.

Elder accepted the Lake Hills Fire Department August 2025 Calls & EMS Reports as a matter of record.

Before going to the Trustee Report, Lareau explained a Facebook post that Lake Hills was involved in. Deputy Chief Van Vleet read the statement Chief Michalak made in response to this incident. There

was a brief discussion regarding the comments on Facebook regarding the post. There were also discussion and suggestions regarding possibly posting Chief Michalak's response on the Lake Hills Facebook page.

2. Trustee Report

Lareau asked Deputy Chief Van Vleet to inform the Board of Assistant Chief Eggebrecht's resignation effective September 2, 2025. Lake Hills made Assistance Chief Eggebrecht an Honorary Member which means he could come back anytime. Assistant Chief Michalak has stepped up and is doing some of former Assistant Chief Eggebrecht's responsibilities. The rest of the responsibilities will be divided among others. Lareau added she attended the September Lake Hills meeting to clarify and answer any questions regarding the House Senate Bill 1 and the affects it will have on the fire levy fund. Assistant Chief Eggebrecht's resignation was announced at this meeting. Lareau informed the Board that she and the Township Assistance staff will be attending the Indiana Township Association (ITA) Conference for 3 days next week. Lastly, Burke from Christopher Burke Engineering informed Lareau the cemetery will be seeded in the next couple weeks due to the continued warming temperatures as opposed to the former schedule of doing it this week. Seeding in the fall will help the sand from continuing to erode which is the first step before the retaining wall is built.

3. Attorney Report

Attorney Sedia reiterated from the Study Session that everything is in order for the Budget Hearing.

4. Board Reports

None

2026 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

1. Open for Public Comment

Elder opened the floor for public comments at 7:21 p.m. She called for public comment three times. There were none.

2. Close Public Hearing

Elder closed the Public Hearing at 7:22 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Approval of August 26, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

There were no questions.

Quigley made a motion to approve the August 26, 2025 Board Meeting minutes as submitted. Stanich seconded the motion.

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

NEW BUSINESS

1. August 2025 Financials

Lareau indicated TrustINDiana and Centier Bank have the same balance on the TOMS Fund Balance Sheet reports. She then explained the TrustINDiana transfer of \$250,000 from the Cum Fire Fund into the General Fund. Due to Senate Bill 1 and the loss of revenue, it is important that the interest accrues in the General Fund.

Elder accepted the August 2025 Financials as a matter of record.

2. August 2025 Township Assistance Report

Lareau stated August has been a quiet month. However, the large number on line 7 of the report is due to the donated school supplies distributed to clients.

Elder accepted the August 2025 Township Assistance Report as a matter of record.

3. Unspecified Donation Disbursement from Donation Fund 9501.4 in the amount totaling \$300.00 as follows: Speedway Fuel Gift Cards for Clients

Lareau explained if a monetary donation is unspecified and monies are dispersed from that fund, it must go before the Board for acceptance.

Elder accepted the Unspecified Donation Disbursement from Donation Fund 9501.4 in the amount totaling \$300.00 as a matter of record.

4. Petition to Appeal for an Increase Above the Maximum Levy

Lareau explained this was regarding the Excessive Levy Appeal of \$600,000 the Township is requesting for the 2026 Budget in the General Fund to pay for the cemetery retaining wall. The wall is to prevent the further erosion and loss of graves. The appeal is sent to the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) to approve this one-time excess levy appeal to cover the cost of the retaining wall as long as there are no remonstrances for the next ten (10) days from the overall budget. More graves will be lost if action is not taken on this. If the Board accepts and approves this petition and no remonstrances are made within ten (10) days from the overall budget, it will get submitted to DLGF to review along with the submitted documents to support the appeal. There were no questions or comments.

Quigley made a motion to approve Petition to Appeal for an Increase Above the Maximum Levy. Stanich seconded the motion.

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

5. Resolution 2025-10 Amending Performance Review Provisions in Employee Manual

Lareau stated the current Employee Manual reads the Trustee is required to do an annual review on employees. There are currently part time and back up employees that are seasonal or work as needed. Attorney Sedia explained this resolution is to apply the regular review process only to employees working one day per week on a regular basis. Another provision was added to this resolution having reviews done not less frequently than annually.

Quigley made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-10 Amending Performance Review Provisions in Employee Manual. Stanich seconded the motion.

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

CITIZEN INPUT

None

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

1. Other

None

- 2. The next scheduled meeting of the Township Board is the 2026 Budget Adoption Meeting to be held Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.**

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 7:33 p.m.

Lisa Elder, Chairman

Michael Quigley, Secretary

Eric J. Stanich, Member

Submitted and attested by Cathy J. Lareau, Trustee