

TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT 2020

STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP

January 28, 2020

TO PRESIDENT BORN, OTHER BOARD MEMBERS, STAFF, GUESTS AND ANY AND ALL CITIZENS OF THE TOWNSHIP. GREETINGS TO YOU ALL THROUGH THIS ANNUAL REPORT OF YOUR LOCAL TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT.

ONCE AGAIN, I AM APPRECIATIVE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE YOU AND REPORT ON THIS PAST YEAR AS CENTER TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE. THE POLITICAL CLIMATE ACROSS THE LAND IS ONE OF UNCERTAINTY AND ANXIETY, YET HERE WE ARE AGAIN POISED AND PRACTICED TO SERVE. THE LOCAL CLIMATE MIMICS THE NATIONAL CLIMATE YET HERE WE STAND YET UNIQUE IN OUR MISSION TO SERVE THE LEAST OF THESE OUR FELLOW CITIZENS AS THE GOVERNMENT THAT IS MOST IN TOUCH WITH ITS CONSTITUENTS AND DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO SAME.

AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS THIS REPORT HAS TWO PARTS: ONE A PARTIAL STATISTICAL SECTION, THE DETAILS OF WHICH ARE READILY AVAILABLE TO ALL ON THE INDIANA GATEWAY WEBSITE AVAILABLE FOR ALL CITIZENS; THE OTHER PART IS A SECTION OF STEWARDSHIP AND PHILOSOPHY OF THE OFFICE YET UNDER SCRUTINY BY OUR LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES.

THE CHALLENGES WE FACE FOR OUR VERY EXISTENCE TAKE ON NEW APPROACHES THROUGH EACH SEASON AND EACH SESSION, YET SOMEHOW THROUGH THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE SERVED WE REMAIN STEADFAST AND SURE THOUGH NOT ALWAYS SECURE. CURRENTLY THE REMAINING TOWNSHIP ASSESSORS ARE ONCE AGAIN UNDER FIRE AS A PRELUDE TO REFOCUS ON THE TOWNSHIPS COMING IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF YEARS

AS SUCH, WE ARE MUST BECOME PRO ACTIVE IN OUR DEFENSE, PROTECT OUR ASSETS, AND DEVELOP THE NEW FACE OF TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT. THIS WILL REQUIRE SOME ADAPTABILITY AND INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT, TRAIN, INCREASE OUR VISIBILITY AND FIND OTHER WAYS TO PAY FORWARD IN GIVING A HAND UP, AND NOT A HAND OUT. ALTHOUGH MANY FUNCTIONS HAVE

BEEN TAKEN FROM US AND DOLED OUT TO OTHER FORMS AND LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT, WE CAN STILL DO OUR MANDATED WORK THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS AND JOINT OPERATIONS TO ASSURE THE BASIC NECCESITIES OF LIFE AND ALSO QUALITY OF LIFE CONCERNS.

EDUCATION, CHILDCARE, PHYSICAL & MENTAL HEALTH, AND JOBS CONSISTENTLY REMAIN AS THE KEYS TO OPENING THE DOORS TO OPPORTUNITY AND ESCAPE THE PITS OF POVERTY. WE MUST BE AT THE FRONT DOOR OF THIS INITIATIVE OR FACE THE ELIMINATION OF US AS A VIABLE SERVICE TO THOSE WHO NEED OUR SERVICES THE MOST.

WE REJOICE AT THE MENTION OF ANOTHER FACTORY COMING TO TOWN AND INVESTING, BUT WE'VE BEEN ON BOTH SIDES OF THAT AISLE BEFORE. WE MUST REMAIN EVER VIGILANT TO THE RAPIDLY CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT PRESENT THEMSELVES TO US. WHO WILL BE THE NEXT TO LOSE THEIR JOBS, BE PLACED ON FURLOUGH, OR SUFFER THROUGH A CATASTROPHIC WEATHER INCIDENT? WE DON'T KNOW, BUT WE MUST BE PREPARED BEFORE ONCE AGAIN, THE GIANT HEADLINE-GRABBING ORGANIZATIONS COME TO AND TROUGH TOWN.

ALLOW ME TO SHARE SOME THINGS ABOUT **YOUR CENTER TOWNSHIP!**

TOWNSHIP REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE NUMBERED 2,720 IN 2017, 1,472 IN 2018, AND 1,780 IN 2019. THESE REQUESTS CAME FROM 708 IN 2017, 1,216 IN 2018, AND 1,780 IN 2019. THE COSTS OF THESE SERVICES WAS 222,000 IN 2017, 254,000 IN 2018, AND 426,00 IN 2019. DOLLAR AMOUNTS BOUNCED ALL OVER EQUALLY IN: HOUSING, HEALTHCARE, FUNERALS, EMERGENCY SHELTER, WORKFARE, AND PAYEE MANAGEMENT.

CASE MANAGEMENT VALUE FOR INVESTIGATING, COUNSELING, BUDGETING, REFERRING, PHONE CALLS, FORMS ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE TIME OF STAFF WAS VALUED AT 561,000.00 IN 2017, 632,000.00 IN 2018, AND 565,000.00 IN 2019. THESE VALUES ARE ESTABLISHED BY STANDARDS APPROVED BY THE SBOA.

WITH ALL OF THIS WE STILL SHOWED AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2019 TOTAL FUNDS OF \$4, 124,758.32 OF CASH BALANCES WITH AN ON DEMAND CHECKING

ACCOUNT OF APPROXIMATELY 3.5 MILLION DOLLARS. THIS DESPITE EFFORTS TO RELIEVE US OF DOLLARS AS IF WE HAVE NO IDEA OF HOW TO MANAGE OUR SMALL PIECE OF THE PROPERTY TAX DOLLARS.

THERE ARE SOME INITIATIVES AVAILABLE TO US THAT CAN AND WILL ACCOMPLISH OUR MISSION TASKS AND ALSO LET THE TAXPAYERS KNOW THE WHO AND WHAT OF THE CONTRIBUTION. OPPORTUNITIES THAT WILL ALSO ALLOW US TO PARTNER WITH GROUPS THAT WILL EFFECTUALLY AID OUR CLIENTS TO ESCAPE THE CLUTCHES OF THOSE THINGS WHICH SERVE TO BIND THEM AND HOLD THEM BACK. HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING THAT WILL FIT WITHIN OUR FRAMEWORK WITHOUT DRAINWORK, AND I WILL BE PRESENTING THESE TO THIS BOARD TO HELP OUR CITIZENS AND THUS OUR CITY, COUNTY, AND TOWNSHIP.

WE ARE LOOKING TO PARTNER WITH THE ST. VINCENT FOUNDATION THROUGH THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE CANCER CENTER. OUR MISSION DOVETAILED WITH THEIRS IN OUR COMMON CARE FOR THOSE OF ALL WALKS OF LIFE AND ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ARE STRUGGLING, AFFECTED BY POVERTY OR VULNERABLE DUE TO SAME.

THE EDUCATIONAL HAND UP WILL BE EXTENDED THROUGH OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE. WITH 60% OF OUR STATE'S WORKFORCE HAVING A HIGH-VALUE POST SECONDARY DEGREE WE WANT TO DO OUR PART IN CLOSING THE GAP BETWEEN THOSE WHO ARE QUALIFIED AND THOSE WHO ARE NOT WHILE AT THE SAME TIME DRIVING OUR ECONOMY FORWARD AND UPWARD. WE WILL BE ASSISTING IN PROVIDING A PATHWAY TO STUDENT SUCCESS.

ADDITIONALLY WE WILL CONTINUE TO PARTNER WITH THE 17-20 COOPERATING AGENCIES JOINING WITH AND STRUGGLING ALONGSIDE US AS WE SERVE THE CITIZENS OF THE TOWNSHIP, CITY, AND COUNTY. WE SCRUTINIZE SO THAT WE WON'T COMPROMISE, WE REPLICATE SO THAT WE DON'T DUPLICATE, WE ARE TOWNSHIP, and WE ARE TEAM TRUSTEE WITH 20/20 VISION.

THE STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP IS STRONG AND SECURE. THE MINDS OF THE LEADERSHIP IS FOCUSED AND OPEN, THE DRIVE OF THE TOWNSHIP IS ONWARD AND UPWARD, THE VISION OF THE TOWNSHIP IS TO THE EAST WINDOW, THE FOCUS IS FORWARD AND NOT BACKWARD.

ONCE AGAIN IN MAY (29TH) WE WILL BE HOSTING OUR COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDERS EXPO WHERE AGENCIES OF THE CITY AND COUNTY WILL BE SHOWCASED ON OUR CAMPUS FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL THE CITIZENS. WE INVITE YOU TO KEEP AN EYE OUT ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS FOR CONTINUING INFORMATION ABOUT THIS STELLAR ANNUAL EVENT.

WE ARE EXCITED ABOUT THE NEW VENTURES AWAITING US WHILE CONTINUING TO SERVE IN THE TRADITIONAL TOWNSHIP WAY. MAY GOD BLESS IN A GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATIVE WAY, AMERICA, THE STATE OF INDIANA, HOWARD COUNTY, THE CITY OF KOKOMO, AND CENTER TOWNSHIP.

ROBERT A. LEE, TRUSTEE

CENTER TOWNSHIP