

**Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau
D/B/A South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority
Minutes of January 21, 2021
Page 1 of 11**

The Board of Directors of the Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau
Met in a **REGULAR MEETING**
Railcats Stadium
1 Stadium Plaza, Gary, IN 46402
Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 12:00 PM (CST)
PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BYLAWS AND STANDING RULES

I. Roll Call

Chairman Andy Qunell called the January 21, 2021 meeting of the Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau to order at 12:03 P.M. (CST).
President/CEO Spero Batistatos called the roll.

The roll call was as follows:

Present: Brent Brashier, Christine Cash, Tom Dabertin (via phone), Jahnae Erpenbach (via phone), Bernie Grisolia (via phone), Nikki Lopez, Darnail Lyles, Matt Maloney, Andy Qunell, Patrick Reardon, Chris Rich, Matthew Schuffert, Doug Spencer, Larry Tucker and Chareice White.

Absent: Paul Anderson, Sal Espino, Ed Welch and W.F. "Bill" Wellman.

Also present were President/CEO Speros A. Batistatos, Executive VP Katie Holderby, Chief Financial Officer Cathy Svetanoff, Chief Marketing Officer Heather Becerra, Chief Technology Officer Luke Weinman, Director of Communications Erika Dahl, and Attorney Jim Magrames.

II. Pledge Of Allegiance

A. The pledge was recited.

III. Report of the Executive Committee

A. None to present.

IV. Report of Standing Committee

A. None to present.

V. Staff Report

A. Staff reports were emailed prior to the meeting and presentation was given by Executive VP Katie Holderby.

Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau
D/B/A South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority
Minutes of January 21, 2021
Page 2 of 11

VI. Old Business

- A. Update from Attorney Jim Magrames regarding City of Hammond litigation.

VII. New Business

- A. Addition of New Items to the Agenda
 - 1. Member Matthew Schuffert asked for a motion to add a new agenda item regarding the formation of a committee to review and negotiate the employment contract for President/CEO Speros A. Batistatos.
 - 2. Hearing no further questions, Vice Chairman Brent Brashier motioned and seconded by Member Matthew Schuffert to approve the addition of the agenda item under New Business.
- B. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - 1. Regular Meeting Minutes from December 17, 2020
 - a. Chairman Qunell sought approval of the Regular Meeting minutes from December 17, 2020.
 - b. Hearing no further questions, Member Chris Rich motioned and Vice Chairman Brent Brashier seconded to approve the motion as submitted.
 - c. Motion carries by voice vote: Yes 15 – No 0 – Abstain 0

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Paul Anderson	___	___	___	_x_
Brent Brashier	_x_	___	___	___
Christine Cash	_x_	___	___	___
Tom Dabertin	_x_	___	___	___
Jahnae Erpenbach	_x_	___	___	___
Sal Espino	___	___	___	_x_
Bernie Grisolia	_x_	___	___	___
Nikki Lopez	_x_	___	___	___
Darnail Lyles	_x_	___	___	___
Matthew Maloney	_x_	___	___	___
Patrick Reardon	_x_	___	___	___
Chris Rich	_x_	___	___	___
Matthew Schuffert	_x_	___	___	___
Douglas Spencer	_x_	___	___	___
Larry Tucker	_x_	___	___	___
Ed Welch	___	___	___	_x_
Dr. W.F. "Bill" Wellman	___	___	___	_x_
Chareice White	_x_	___	___	___
Andy Qunell	_x_	___	___	___
Chairman				

**Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau
D/B/A South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority
Minutes of January 21, 2021
Page 3 of 11**

2. Executive Meeting Minutes from January 7, 2021
 - a. Chairman Qunell sought approval of the Executive Meeting minutes from January 7, 2021.
 - b. Hearing no further questions, Vice Chairman Brent Brashier motioned and Member Matthew Schuffert seconded to approve the motion as submitted.
 - c. Motion carries by voice vote: Yes 15 – No 0 – Abstain 0

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Paul Anderson	___	___	___	_x_
Brent Brashier	_x_	___	___	___
Christine Cash	_x_	___	___	___
Tom Dabertin	_x_	___	___	___
Jahnae Erpenbach	_x_	___	___	___
Sal Espino	___	___	___	_x_
Bernie Grisolia	_x_	___	___	___
Nikki Lopez	_x_	___	___	___
Darnail Lyles	_x_	___	___	___
Matthew Maloney	_x_	___	___	___
Patrick Reardon	_x_	___	___	___
Chris Rich	_x_	___	___	___
Matthew Schuffert	_x_	___	___	___
Douglas Spencer	_x_	___	___	___
Larry Tucker	_x_	___	___	___
Ed Welch	___	___	___	_x_
Dr. W.F. "Bill" Wellman	___	___	___	_x_
Chareice White	_x_	___	___	___
Andy Qunell	_x_	___	___	___
Chairman				

Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau
D/B/A South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority
Minutes of January 21, 2021
Page 4 of 11

C. Finance Report

1. Chairman Qunell sought approval for claims totaling \$741,429.25 that Included Part 1 (after December 17, 2020 Board Meeting): Vouchers #24800-24820; 24826; 24834; 24835 in the Amount of \$236,134.99 and Part 2 (January 1 to January 21, 2021 Board meeting): Vouchers #24821-24825; 248274-24833; 24836-24898 in the Amount of \$505,344.26.
 - a. Hearing no further questions, Treasurer Matthew Maloney motioned and Member Matthew Schuffert seconded to approve the motion as submitted.
 - b. Motion carries: Yes 13 - No 0 - Abstain 2.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Paul Anderson	___	___	___	_x_
Brent Brashier	_x_	___	___	___
Christine Cash	_x_	___	___	___
Tom Dabertin	___	___	_x_	___
Jahnae Erpenbach	_x_	___	___	___
Sal Espino	___	___	___	_x_
Bernie Grisolia	___	___	_x_	___
Nikki Lopez	_x_	___	___	___
Darnail Lyles	_x_	___	___	___
Matthew Maloney	_x_	___	___	___
Patrick Reardon	_x_	___	___	___
Chris Rich	_x_	___	___	___
Matthew Schuffert	_x_	___	___	___
Douglas Spencer	_x_	___	___	___
Larry Tucker	_x_	___	___	___
Ed Welch	___	___	___	_x_
Dr. W.F. "Bill" Wellman	___	___	___	_x_
Chareice White	_x_	___	___	___
Andy Qunell	_x_	___	___	___
Chairman				

Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau
D/B/A South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority
Minutes of January 21, 2021
Page 5 of 11

D. Resolutions

1. Resolution No. 2021-01-01: - A Resolution Authorizing Transfers Within the 2020 Budget

- a. Chairman Qunell sought approval to approve Resolution No. 2021-01-01 as presented.
- b. Hearing no further questions, Member Nikki Lopez motioned and Vice Chairman Brent Brashier seconded to approve the motion as submitted.
- c. Motion carries: Yes 13 - No 0 - Abstain 2.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Paul Anderson	___	___	___	_x_
Brent Brashier	_x_	___	___	___
Christine Cash	_x_	___	___	___
Tom Dabertin	___	___	_x_	___
Jahnae Erpenbach	_x_	___	___	___
Sal Espino	___	___	___	_x_
Bernie Grisolia	___	___	_x_	___
Nikki Lopez	_x_	___	___	___
Darnail Lyles	_x_	___	___	___
Matthew Maloney	_x_	___	___	___
Patrick Reardon	_x_	___	___	___
Chris Rich	_x_	___	___	___
Matthew Schuffert	_x_	___	___	___
Douglas Spencer	_x_	___	___	___
Larry Tucker	_x_	___	___	___
Ed Welch	___	___	___	_x_
Dr. W.F. "Bill" Wellman	___	___	___	_x_
Chareice White	_x_	___	___	___
Andy Qunell	_x_	___	___	___
Chairman				

Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau
D/B/A South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority
Minutes of January 21, 2021
Page 6 of 11

2. Resolution No. 2021-01-02: - A Resolution Authorizing The Treasurer Of The Lake County Convention And Visitors Bureau To Deposit, Invest, And Reinvest Funds In Financial Institutions Designated As Depositories

- a. Chairman Qunell sought approval to approve Resolution No. 2021-01-02 as presented.
- b. Hearing no further questions, Member Tom Dabertin motioned and Member Christine Cash seconded to approve the motion as submitted.
- c. Motion carries: Yes 15 - No 0 - Abstain 0.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Paul Anderson	___	___	___	_x_
Brent Brashier	_x_	___	___	___
Christine Cash	_x_	___	___	___
Tom Dabertin	_x_	___	___	___
Jahnae Erpenbach	_x_	___	___	___
Sal Espino	___	___	___	_x_
Bernie Grisolia	_x_	___	___	___
Nikki Lopez	_x_	___	___	___
Darnail Lyles	_x_	___	___	___
Matthew Maloney	_x_	___	___	___
Patrick Reardon	_x_	___	___	___
Chris Rich	_x_	___	___	___
Matthew Schuffert	_x_	___	___	___
Douglas Spencer	_x_	___	___	___
Larry Tucker	_x_	___	___	___
Ed Welch	___	___	___	_x_
Dr. W.F. "Bill" Wellman	___	___	___	_x_
Chareice White	_x_	___	___	___
Andy Qunell	_x_	___	___	___
Chairman				

Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau
D/B/A South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority
Minutes of January 21, 2021
Page 7 of 11

3. **Resolution No. 2021-01-03: - A Resolution Authorizing COVID-19
Emergency Paid Sick Leave (EPSL)**

- a. Chairman Qunell sought approval to approve Resolution No. 2021-01-03 as presented.
- b. Hearing no further questions, Member Tom Dabertin motioned and Member Chris Rich seconded to approve the motion as submitted.
- c. Motion carries: Yes 15 - No 0 - Abstain 0.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Paul Anderson	_____	_____	_____	_x_
Brent Brashier	_x_	_____	_____	_____
Christine Cash	_x_	_____	_____	_____
Tom Dabertin	_x_	_____	_____	_____
Jahnae Erpenbach	_x_	_____	_____	_____
Sal Espino	_____	_____	_____	_x_
Bernie Grisolia	_x_	_____	_____	_____
Nikki Lopez	_x_	_____	_____	_____
Darnail Lyles	_x_	_____	_____	_____
Matthew Maloney	_x_	_____	_____	_____
Patrick Reardon	_x_	_____	_____	_____
Chris Rich	_x_	_____	_____	_____
Matthew Schuffert	_x_	_____	_____	_____
Douglas Spencer	_x_	_____	_____	_____
Larry Tucker	_x_	_____	_____	_____
Ed Welch	_____	_____	_____	_x_
Dr. W.F. "Bill" Wellman	_____	_____	_____	_x_
Chareice White	_x_	_____	_____	_____
Andy Qunell	_x_	_____	_____	_____
Chairman				

Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau
D/B/A South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority
Minutes of January 21, 2021
Page 8 of 11

4. **Resolution No. 2021-01-04: - A Resolution Supporting The Efforts Of Local Communities To Levy A Food And Beverage Tax In Support Of The Tourism And Hospitality Industry**

- a. Chairman Qunell sought approval to approve Resolution No. 2021-01-04 as presented in board packet sent on February 19, 2021 (see attached Resolution 2021-01-04). Discussion ensued regarding the two differing drafts presented. Nikki Lopez argued that the first draft was a better reflection of various municipal needs.
- b. Hearing no further questions, Member Tom Dabertin motioned and Member Darnail Lyles seconded to approve the motion as submitted.
- c. Motion carries: Yes 14 - No 1 - Abstain 0.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Paul Anderson	___	___	___	_x_
Brent Brashier	_x_	___	___	___
Christine Cash	_x_	___	___	___
Tom Dabertin	_x_	___	___	___
Jahnae Erpenbach	_x_	___	___	___
Sal Espino	___	___	___	_x_
Bernie Grisolia	_x_	___	___	___
Nikki Lopez	_x_	___	___	___
Darnail Lyles	_x_	___	___	___
Matthew Maloney	_x_	___	___	___
Patrick Reardon	_x_	___	___	___
Chris Rich	_x_	___	___	___
Matthew Schuffert	_x_	___	___	___
Douglas Spencer	_x_	___	___	___
Larry Tucker	___	_x_	___	___
Ed Welch	___	___	___	_x_
Dr. W.F. "Bill" Wellman	___	___	___	_x_
Chareice White	_x_	___	___	___
Andy Qunell	_x_	___	___	___
Chairman				

Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau
D/B/A South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority
Minutes of January 21, 2021
Page 9 of 11

E. Other New Business

1. Small Business Administration (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan

- a. Chairman Qunell sought approval to proceed with SBA PPP application and additional CARES ACT grant monies, and authorized Chief Financial Officer, Cathy Svetanoff, to act as signatory for all-related documents on behalf of the organization.
- b. Hearing no further questions, Vice Chairman Brent Brashier motioned and Treasurer Matthew Maloney seconded to approve the motion as submitted.
- c. Motion carries: Yes 15 - No 0 - Abstain 0.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Paul Anderson	___	___	___	_x_
Brent Brashier	_x_	___	___	___
Christine Cash	_x_	___	___	___
Tom Dabertin	_x_	___	___	___
Jahnae Erpenbach	_x_	___	___	___
Sal Espino	___	___	___	_x_
Bernie Grisolia	_x_	___	___	___
Nikki Lopez	_x_	___	___	___
Darnail Lyles	_x_	___	___	___
Matthew Maloney	_x_	___	___	___
Patrick Reardon	_x_	___	___	___
Chris Rich	_x_	___	___	___
Matthew Schuffert	_x_	___	___	___
Douglas Spencer	_x_	___	___	___
Larry Tucker	_x_	___	___	___
Ed Welch	___	___	___	_x_
Dr. W.F. "Bill" Wellman	___	___	___	_x_
Chareice White	_x_	___	___	___
Andy Qunell Chairman	_x_	___	___	___

2. Forwarded Purchase Orders at Yearend (2020) - SBOA requirement

- a. The report was provided to the board as required by the State Board of Accounts by Chief Financial Officer Cathy Svetanoff.

Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau
D/B/A South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority
Minutes of January 21, 2021
Page 10 of 11

3. **2021 Legislative Agenda**

- a. The board elected to defer this topic for a future meeting.

4. **Addition to Agenda: Formation of Committee to Review President/CEO Contract**

- a. Member Matthew Schuffert discussed the formation of a committee to review and negotiate the employment contract for President/CEO Batistatos. Member Matthew Schuffert will serve as chairperson of this committee, and will include Members Nikki Lopez, Matthew Maloney, Darnail Lyles, Chareice White and Chairman Andy Qunell.
- b. Chairman Qunell asked the board for approval to seek and hire an independent legal counsel to assist with the employment contract.
- c. Hearing no further questions, Treasurer Matthew Maloney motioned and seconded by Vice Chairman Brent Brashier.
- d. Motion Carries: Yes 15 - No 0 - Abstain 0

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Paul Anderson	___	___	___	_x_
Brent Brashier	_x_	___	___	___
Christine Cash	_x_	___	___	___
Tom Dabertin	_x_	___	___	___
Jahnae Erpenbach	_x_	___	___	___
Sal Espino	___	___	___	_x_
Bernie Grisolia	_x_	___	___	___
Nikki Lopez	_x_	___	___	___
Darnail Lyles	_x_	___	___	___
Matthew Maloney	_x_	___	___	___
Patrick Reardon	_x_	___	___	___
Chris Rich	_x_	___	___	___
Matthew Schuffert	_x_	___	___	___
Douglas Spencer	_x_	___	___	___
Larry Tucker	_x_	___	___	___
Ed Welch	___	___	___	_x_
Dr. W.F. "Bill" Wellman	___	___	___	_x_
Chareice White	_x_	___	___	___
Andy Qunell Chairman	_x_	___	___	___

Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau
D/B/A South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority
Minutes of January 21, 2021
Page 11 of 11

VIII. Public Presentations

- A. Mayor Brian Snedecor, City of Hobart
 - 1. Mayor Snedecor provided updated about the City of Hobart.
- B. Council President Rick Bella, Town of Merrillville
 - 1. Town Councilman Bella did not attend meeting. New board member Patrick Reardon provided update about the Town of Merrillville.
- C. Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary
 - 1. Deputy Mayor Trent McCain provided update about the City of Gary.

IX. Miscellaneous Matters

- A. Dates to Remember
 - 1. **Next Regular Meeting** – Thursday, February 18, 2021 at noon – Hobart Community Center, 111 E. Old Ridge Road, Hobart, IN 46342

X. Public Comment

- A. Two (2) minutes maximum per person or five (5) minutes for a group spokesperson. Please keep your comments civil and constructive to policy issues. The Chair, at his/her sole discretion, may recognize individuals wishing to speak on different topics at any time and may end the Public Comment Session. All speakers will be timed. This portion of the meeting shall not exceed then (10) minutes.

No public attendees were present for the meeting.

XI. Adjournment

Hearing of no other business to come before the board, Chairman Qunell adjourned the meeting. Motioned by Member Doug Spencer, seconded by Member Chris Cash. The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m. (CST).

Approved:

Andy Qunell, Chairman

Attest:

Chareice White, Secretary