1	STATE OF ILLINOIS )
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3	COUNTY OF McHENRY )
4	IN THE TWENTY-SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
5	McHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
6	ANDREW GASSER, )
7	Plaintiff, )
8	VS. )
9	KAREN LUKASIK, INDIVIDUALLY AND ) IN HER CAPACITY AS ALGONQUIN ) TOWNSHIP CLERK; ANNA MAY )
10	MILLER; AND ROBERT MILLER, ) Defendants. )
11	KAREN LUKASIK, INDIVIDUALLY AND ) No. 17 CH 435
12	IN HER CAPACITY AS ALGONQUIN ) TOWNSHIP CLERK; ANNA MAY )
13	MILLER; AND ROBERT MILLER, ) Defendants/Counter-Plaintiffs, )
14	vs.
15	ANDREW GASSER,
16	Plaintiff/Counter-Defendant, ) KAREN LUKASIK, INDIVIDUALLY AND )
17	IN HER CAPACITY AS ALGONQUIN TOWNSHIP CLERK,
18	Defendant/Third Party ) Plaintiff,
19	vs.
20	CHARLES LUTZOW, Third-Party Defendant.
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22	ELECTRONICALLY RECORDED REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had in the above-entitled cause before
23	the Honorable MICHAEL CALDWELL, Judge of said Court of McHenry County, Illinois, on the 8th day of June,
24	2017, at the McHenry County Government Center, Woodstock, Illinois.

1	APPEARANCES:
2	MR. ROBERT HANLON,
3	On behalf of the Plaintiff,
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5	ZUKOWSKI, ROGERS FLOOD & McARDLE, by
6	MR. DAVID McARDLE &
7	MR. R. MARK GUMMERSON,
8	On behalf of Karen Lukasik,
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10	THE GOOCH FIRM, by
11	MR. THOMAS GOOCH,
12	On behalf of Robert Miller,
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14	MATUSZEWICH & KELLY, by
15	MR. JAMES P. KELLY,
16	On behalf of Algonquin Township and
17	Charles Lutzow.
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20	ALSO PRESENT:
21	MS. JAMIE WOMBACHER.
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1 THE COURT: This is 17 CF 435, Gasser versus 2 Karen Lukasik. 3 MR. HANLON: That is correct, your Honor. 4 THE COURT: May I have the appearances of 5 counsel, for the record, name and party? 6 MR. HANLON: Judge, Robert Hanlon on behalf of 7 the plaintiff, Andrew Gasser. 8 MR. GUMMERSON: Mark Gummerson on behalf of 9 Karen Lukasik. 10 MR. KELLY: James Kelly on behalf of Algonquin 11 Township and Charles Lutzow in his official capacity 12 as supervisor. 13 MR. McARDLE: And Dave McArdle on behalf of Karen Lukasik as well who is the --14 15 THE COURT: Are there any preliminary motions? MR. McARDLE: Yes, Judge. Karen Lukasik, the 16 17 defendant in the original case is now file -- has filed this morning a counter-claim and a third-party 18 19 The counter-claim, of course, is against the 20 plaintiff and the co-defendant in the original case, 21 and then the third-party complaint is against Jim 22 Kelly's client, Charles Lutzow in his official capacity, the supervisor. 23

THE COURT: All right.

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MR. McARDLE: And that's our motion. You want me to go into it?

THE COURT: Pardon me?

MR. McARDLE: Do you want me to explain the motion?

THE COURT: What I was asking for is there any preliminary motions before we get into the substance of the --

MR. HANLON: Well, Judge, I received an email communication this morning. Opposing counsel intended to file a motion today for a hearing today at 1:15 p.m. seeking a temporary restraining order. They had indicated to me that they would send it to me in the -- later in the morning, a copy of the motion.

I did not receive the motion. I asked opposing counsel before stepping up here today for a copy of the motion, and he showed me his proposed order as opposed to the actual motion. My learned colleague standing to my right, Mr. Kelly, was kind enough to allow me to look at the copy that he had received. And apparently, they did send an email to my office, I just didn't receive it yet. Maybe I had left by the time it came.

But in any event, they are seeking relief 1 2 on an emergency basis, and I know of no emergency here that is articulated, and it's because of that, 3 4 I would object to the Court hearing the substance of the motion at this point in time and to allow me 5 6 time to file a written response. And I'm also 7 willing to maintain a status quo until I can file a written response, your Honor. 8 9 THE COURT: Any response? 10 MR. McARDLE: Yes, I have -- actually, I have 11 12

two copies of the motion. I thought the Court would need one. So I have those. I can make those available.

THE COURT: I have my own.

Pardon? MR. McARDLE:

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THE COURT: I have a copy.

MR. McARDLE: Okay. So --

MR. HANLON: So for the record, I'm receiving this now in court, Judge.

THE COURT: All right.

MR. McARDLE: I sent Mr. Hanlon two copies this morning along with Mr. Gooch who just walked in.

I walked in because I was told you'd MR. GOOCH: be in front of Judge Chmiel's courtroom --

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          THE COURT:
                      I'm sorry?
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          MR. GOOCH: -- at 1:15 where it was.
                                                 Nobody
      told me that it was now here.
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          MR. McARDLE: So --
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          THE COURT:
                      Judge Chmiel recused himself.
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          MR. GOOCH:
                      I'm sorry, your Honor?
          THE COURT:
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                      Judge Chmiel recused himself.
                      I thought as much.
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          MR. GOOCH:
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                      For obvious reasons.
          THE COURT:
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                      No one told me that. So I'm here.
          MR. GOOCH:
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          THE COURT:
                      Okay. Who do you represent?
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          MR. GOOCH:
                      I haven't seen pleadings or anything
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      else.
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          MR. McARDLE: So here -- so the bottom line in
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      this motion --
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          MR. GUMMERSON: He represents Robert Miller, in
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      answer to the Court's question.
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          THE COURT: Thank you.
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          MR. McARDLE: So the only party unrepresented
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      here is Anna Miller who I believe Jamie Wombacher is
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      on her way. She should be approaching soon.
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          THE COURT: She is on her way here?
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          MR. McARDLE:
                        Um-hum.
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          MR. GUMMERSON: I saw her out in the parking
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1 lot. 2 MR. KELLY: I saw her in the parking lot also. 3 MR. GUMMERSON: So I assume that's what she was 4 here for. MR. McARDLE: She should be here. 5 6 THE COURT: All right. We will take a 15-minute 7 break until she gets here. 8 MR. GUMMERSON: And we will see if we can find 9 her. (A short recess was taken.) 10 11 THE COURT: Who is it that Ms. Wombacher 12 represents? She is here now. Do you represent 13 someone in this case, Ms. Wombacher? 14 Potentially, but not yet, Judge. MS. WOMBACHER: 15 We haven't filed an appearance. 16 THE COURT: All right. 17 MR. McARDLE: Judge, again, David McArdle for 18 Karen Lukasik, party to the case, along with Mark 19 Gummerson. 20 THE COURT: Mr. McArdle, it's your petition. 21 MR. McARDLE: Yes. Judge, so the point of my 22 motion, in essence, is that the original complaint filed by the plaintiff in this case, the highway 23

commissioner, Gasser, Gasser whatever it is, he's

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complaining that documents are missing from the Township sometime in May 2017 after he took office. Somehow the documents are gone.

May 5, Karen Lukasik, who is the elected Township clerk, walks into the office, sees the particular -- a particular cabinet or cabinets in question that were full of documents. Okay. She next walks into the office on June 1, the relevant time frame, June 1. So two weeks later she walks in, and those cabinets are empty. That's in another paragraph. So they were full on May 5, and they are empty on June 1. And she knows also through a third party, that on May 12 and May 13 --

MR. HANLON: Objection, hearsay.

THE COURT: Overruled.

MR. McARDLE: -- boxes of documents are being removed from the Township, okay. So the question is how do we -- how are we going to prove what happened to those documents?

So what my motion seeks is three things, there is a video camera that's outside of the Township. I believe it's in control of the highway commissioner. That has a hard drive on it that

keeps recordings. I would like to get possession of that hard drive and freeze it by way of duplicating it. That's the video camera.

The second aspect of this is the photocopy machine. There is allegations by the plaintiff that photocopies of certain documents were -- you know, all of a sudden appeared on his desk on a certain day in May, I believe, of 2017.

We want to see what was photocopied in May of 2017, and so there is a hard drive in the photocopier. I'd like a duplication of that as well just so see what's there and see if it's relevant to what's going on in May of this year, just May.

The third aspect of this is when Mr. Lutzow the supervisor -- no, did I get that right?

MR. KELLY: Yeah.

That's No. 2. The photocopier.

MR. McARDLE: The supervisor came into office as well, he bought a scanner, a freestanding scanner that you scan documents into. That has evidence in it as well on its hard drive, and I would like a duplicate of that hard drive, the scanner.

So the video camera, the photocopier and the scanning computer hardware I'd like copies of,

which is very simple to do, frozen in place just for the month of May, and that's it.

Now, to accomplish that, I think the most realistic thing for the Court to do is to appoint a lawyer. I'm suggesting Gottemoller because I've used him as a receiver before in other cases, and have him go out and hire an independent person to --who knows how to do these things to get it done. And Karen Lukasik will pay that charge, you know, hopefully to be reimbursed by the Township, and then everybody -- everybody will be served by freezing the evidence.

And that's all I'm looking for. I'm not looking to do anything with it. I just want it frozen, and I'm suggesting an independent expert do it and do it quickly. That's all.

THE COURT: Any responses?

MR. HANLON: Yes, Judge.

THE COURT: Mr. Hanlon?

MR. HANLON: I'm sorry. Robert Hanlon on behalf of Andrew Gasser, highway commissioner.

Judge, we believe that preservation of records is of paramount importance with respect to this case, especially in light of the package which

Mr. Gasser had received on the 30th of May. The package certainly contains information that suggests that there's been misconduct in the Township offices.

So I believe that it's in the best interests of everyone to preserve all Township records and not just these particular records that they seek to -- I have no problem with Mr. Gottemoller. He's a competent attorney, is an ethical man.

But I would disclose to opposing counsel that for a period of time, I worked with Joe and his office, and he may not be aware of that or may not simply have remembered it. Nevertheless, it was a long time ago, and if the Court's so inclined to grant their motion with respect to the hiring of a computer or technical person, we just simply object to the Ace Security Service Works that had previously conducted work because when Mr. Gasser had taken office, he refused to provide passwords and respond to their lawful requests of the Township Highway Department.

And so as it relates to that issue, and I'm -- I think that in fairness to the plaintiff,

here with the short notice here -- you know, we are here talking about -- issuing a TRO, I had indicated to my opposing counsel that I was waiting for their respective appearances so that I can file our own respective, you know, TRO for the preservation of records. It wasn't contained within the complaint that I had filed, and I think that it's appropriate that, you know, all parties to this cause of action preserve records.

Obviously, since the issues that are set forth within the body of the complaint and things that (indiscernible) are subject to the same spoliation issues that would affect the -- you know, a party to this action. I don't think anyone, you know, has any right to, you know, dispose of any record that's associated with the Township, however it's possessed and/or held.

The -- so my response to this is that if we are going to have a TRO issue, it should be issued against everyone, that everybody should maintain their respective records. I think it's important to quote Chapter 60 ILCS 155-5. It says that it is the duty of every person going out of office, whenever required under Section 55-45 or 55-50 to deliver up,

on oath, the records, books and papers in his or her possession or in his or her control belonging to that office.

The local records act also provides that all public records made or received by or under the authority of or coming into the custody, control or possession of any office or agency shall not be mutilated, destroyed, transferred, removed, or otherwise damaged or disposed of in whole or in part except as provided by law. And then there -- the Act continues to define what constitutes a public record. And it includes any digitized electronic material, regardless of its physical form characteristics made, produced, executed or received by the agency or the officer, you know, pursuant to law.

So the issue of what we are all here complaining about is we all want to preserve records, Judge. And I think that it's appropriate given the nature of the statute and the fact that contained within this package there is, you know, purchases of purses, trips to Disneyland, things of that nature, that every record should be reserved.

THE COURT: How long ago did you work with

Gottemoller?

MR. HANLON: Probably ten years ago, maybe eight years ago.

THE COURT: It's a matter of no importance. Anybody else want to chime in?

MR. GOOCH: Yeah.

THE COURT: Mr. Gooch?

MR. GOOCH: Thank you, Judge. The keeper of the records of the Township, both the Township and the Road District is the Township clerk. She serves also as the Township Road District clerk. The highway commissioner is charged with not maintaining any records. It's strictly the clerk and, of course, when they are transferred to the board for approval and audit at the monthly meeting, they become the property of the Township, in general. Still maintained by the Township clerk.

I don't know where this Disneyland period came from -- business came from, but there is no allegation about Disneyland in any pleading. There are no allegations other than conclusions against my client. My clients are private citizens. They left the Township on May 12. They took no records with them. Anything that they had is at the Township.

Do I as -- speaking for a private citizen, do I think it's a good idea to preserve those video records? Yeah, I think it's real interesting. As far as this package that came in the mail, mailed from the Township to the Township, I suspect there is going to be a story on that before much longer.

So I don't have a problem with the language of the order, but I do have a problem where it says all persons. My client should be restrained from doing nothing because my client has nothing until a complaint is on file that specifically charges my client with taking a record that he has no business having and maintaining it. There is no such allegation.

So the language where it says all persons in the proposed order should be limited to Township officers, employees or others having access to the Township buildings. This is now almost 30 days from the date of the last time Mr. Miller was the highway commissioner. He left on May 12.

TROs are designed to preserve emergencies.

And certainly those videos are an emergency because that will, by operation of the video machine, elapse in 30 days. Everything else is a little stale for a

TRO.

This business about the documents, I don't know why you would restrain a Township clerk from maintaining the records that she is supposed to maintain without some allegation that she is destroying records. And the only thing that's in the complaint that was filed are conclusionary statements that she indicated in some social media that she was going to destroy records.

In fact, there is a procedure that makes it legal to destroy records. She never said she was doing it without following that procedure or anything else. I don't represent the clerk, and I'm not going to speak for her. But I am speaking from my own client who is a private citizen. He has no records and there is no allegation in a complaint that he look any records. Nor is there an allegation that he was charged with maintaining those records.

And in fact, the Court can take notice of the law, as I'm sure the Court learned from the Grafton Township disaster, that the Township clerk is the custodian of all records, both of the Road District and the Township.

THE COURT: Anybody else?

MR. HANLON: Yes, Judge, I'd like to respond to Mr. Gooch's comments.

He's indicated that his client is not in possession of any records. I believe that is a misstatement of fact to the Court. Mr. Miller utilized an email address called bobmiller@mc.net during his tenure as a -- as the highway commissioner.

Not a single email was left. I articulated within the body of the original complaint that these emails are not present. The reason that they are not present is Mr. Miller chose to keep them in a forum outside of the scope of the computer servers at Algonquin Township.

Nevertheless, an important case on this point was the Chicago Tribune versus Rahm Emanuel and the City of Chicago. In that case, the City of Chicago had held and posited that those were his private emails. But because he conducted the business of the -- of the City using his private email account, his private email account then became a public record.

And so despite the fact that Mr. Gooch has

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articulated that there is not -- they are not in possession of any records, they have not tendered any of their private email records or the email records from the bobmiller@mc.net. There was one email that recently came into the possession of Mr. Gasser, and that email shows that Mr. --

MR. GOOCH: If we are going to quote from a document, maybe we can all see the document?

MR. HANLON: Sure.

THE COURT: Well, the point is, he's going well beyond the scope of what's before me for a temporary restraining order in the first place. appropriate in a hearing for a preliminary injunction.

MR. HANLON: Yes, Judge. I guess my point is is that if we are going to restrain one party in this arena, we should restrain everyone in this arena that's present before the Court.

MR. GOOCH: Except for, Judge, there have to be some allegations to support that. And there is nothing in here but -- I mean, the conclusion is Miller used a private email account to conduct the It's his private email. business. I mean --

MR. HANLON: But to conduct the business of

1 | the --

MR. GOOCH: Excuse me. Excuse me. I won't interrupt Mr. Hanford --

MR. HANLON: I'm sorry.

MR. GOOCH: -- if he won't -- Hanlon if he won't interrupt me, Judge. That's fair.

The allegations are lacking. I mean, first off, it's -- at this late date, almost a month later, it's a little late to be issuing restraining orders for anything except that video and the mirror drives that they are speaking of because those do contain old records.

Assuming arguendo that Mr. Miller did have some records, if he was going to destroy them, they'd be long gone. You'd come in immediately on something like this, but you come in based on a complaint with factual allegations, not conclusions that support that type of relief. Entering restraining orders against people is serious business and not to be taken lightly, and it has to be supported with a complaint.

MR. HANLON: Judge, may I respond?

THE COURT: Mr. Kelly, anything?

MR. KELLY: Your Honor, just a couple of very

technical issues. I heard Mr. McArdle state he wanted the -- he was talking about scanners and one copier, I think there are multiple copiers. And the draft order that he's prepared says photocopiers, and I think that should be all of the copiers within the Township to include scanners which are a different entity.

Secondly, Judge, I'd be asking the Court that we enter a -- as part of this, some type of protective order because at least at this point, there are general assistance forms that are probably copied and scanned on those drives which have a lot of personal information as well as there was a lot of personal information to include Social Security numbers in with employee records which may be on these drives.

So I'd just like to ensure that if we do enter an order, that there is a protective order that says these documents can't be circulated other than between the parties.

THE COURT: Mr. Gummerson?

MR. GUMMERSON: I'm quiet today, Judge. But what it is is the only thing before the Court is a petition motion -- verified motion supported by an

affidavit for a TRO. That's all we are asking for.

Mr. Hanlon is asking all kinds of things outside the scope. If he wants to file a motion for a TRO, let him do it. But the only thing before the Court today is specifically what Mr. McArdle has articulated as to what we are trying to preserve. And it doesn't do anybody any harm.

The other things, you can get into all the side arguments, but the only thing before the Court is what we are asking for on a verified petition for the TRO. The complaint that started this isn't even verified. It's an unverified complaint.

THE COURT: Final word, Mr. McArdle?

MR. McARDLE: I can't improve on what Mark just did.

THE COURT: All right. The TRO will issue as drafted. I believe the allegations in the complaint are sufficient. The issue is important enough that everybody involved in the lawsuit, both past and present, Township road commissioner should be restrained an enjoined from doing anything with any -- any records that they may have in their possession. It may, in fact, turn out that they have none, in which case, there is no harm, there is

no fall.

MR. GOOCH: Judge, I would ask you to instruct the parties, there are no surprises now in this case. There are no emergencies. Any TROs that should be filed should be filed with appropriate notice pursuant to --

THE COURT: There is only one TRO, that's going to be the one I'm signing now. Anything else will be by way of a preliminary injunction.

MR. McARDLE: (Indiscernible) add Joe Gottemoller in there.

THE COURT: You may. Well, let's do a separate order appointing Gottemoller as the receiver, and add some protective language with regard to the records of the Township being to -- for attorney's eyes only.

MR. McARDLE: We will do that.

THE COURT: Not to be disclosed to third parties without leave of Court.

MR. McARDLE: Thank you.

MR. HANLON: Thank you, your Honor.

MR. GOOCH: Judge, we also -- Mr. Hanlon told me yesterday he was going to file an amended complaint. Could we provide for that in an order today so we

don't have to come back next week on a briefing 1 2 schedule? 3 THE COURT: You can put it in the order that 4 Mr. McArdle --5 MR. GOOCH: Separate order? 6 MR. HANLON: Yeah. I'm happy to do that, Judge. 7 I drafted a complaint. I noticed that there was an error in it, so I chose not to file it today. I 8 9 would have had it on file today. 10 MR. GOOCH: I'm (indiscernible) I just want to 11 do it today rather than --12 MR. GUMMERSON: One other matter of housekeeping 13 is if the Court would give Mr. Kelly leave to file 14 an appearance on behalf of Mr. Lutzow, then, we 15 don't have to send him a copy of it. But we don't 16 then have to --17 MR. KELLY: I just filed it a few minutes ago. 18 MR. GUMMERSON: Okay. It will just save 19 everybody from having to have him served. 20 THE COURT: Okav. 21 MR. HANLON: Thank you. Thank you, Judge. 22 MR. GUMMERSON: 23 MR. GOOCH: Thank you. I want to provide -- I'd like time to respond to the amended complaint, 24

Judge. I -- my client was served on Monday or 1 Tuesday, I think. I filed my appearance the next 2 day voluntarily. I'm going on vacation towards the 3 4 end of this month. I'd like to have through the 5 middle of July to file a response. 6 THE COURT: Don't you have 28 days anyway? 7 MR. GOOCH: I don't know what he's -- if he files it next week, that will be just about right. 8 9 If he files it tomorrow, it will be a little short, 10 and I'm not coming back until July 5. 11 MR. HANLON: I'm happy with him filing his 12 answer after July 5. 13 THE COURT: 35 days to answer or otherwise 14 plead. 15 Thank you, Judge. MR. GOOCH: We also need to set a preliminary 16 THE COURT: 17 injunction hearing. When do you want to do that? MR. McARDLE: Well, you know what, this is a 18 19 temporary restraining order with notice. So I --20 It doesn't expire in ten days. THE COURT: 21 MR. McARDLE: Huh? 22 THE COURT: It does not expire in the ten-day 23 period. 24 MR. McARDLE: It doesn't expire in the ten days,

right. 1 2 THE COURT: We do need to address the issue of a 3 preliminary injunction. 4 MR. McARDLE: Why don't we set it for status then? 5 What's your first --6 THE COURT: 7 MR. McARDLE: Would that be okay? 8 THE COURT: We can leave it on -- we can leave 9 it here, August 31 is your CMC date. 10 MR. McARDLE: We will notice it up if we need to before then. I'm sure we will. I'm going to have 11 12 the documents that Joe gets through the expert. We 13 are going to have them returned to the Court, and 14 then we will deal with it when they are -- he will 15 file it with the Court, and then we will decide what 16 to do with it because the --17 THE COURT: The documents are going to be brought here? 18 19 MR. McARDLE: Well, he'll physically bring it in 20 on a motion, and then we will just direct him what 21 to do with it as a group. So it remains independent. 22 23 THE COURT: What kind of volume are we talking

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about? Does anybody know?

MR. McARDLE: It will be three computer disks. It's what to do with them once he has them. tell them to make copies for everybody, and we will order them and distribute one to everybody or something like that. THE COURT: All right. MR. GUMMERSON: Subject to your protective order. MR. McARDLE: Subject to the order, right. THE COURT: Right. (Which were all the proceedings had in the above-entitled cause this date.) 

1	STATE OF ILLINOIS )
2	) SS:
3	COUNTY OF McHENRY )
4	
5	I, JUDY CARLSON, an official Court Reporter
6	for the Circuit Court of McHenry County,
7	Twenty-Second Judicial Circuit of Illinois,
8	transcribed the electronic recording of the
9	proceeding in the above-entitled cause to the best
10	of my ability and based on the quality of the
11	recording, and I hereby certify the foregoing to be
12	a true and accurate transcript of said electronic
13	recording.
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