

Aurora Township

Board of Trustees Meeting

Main Offices, 80 North Broadway, Aurora, Illinois

Date: Thursday, September 24, 2015

Time: 4:00 P.M.

Minutes

I. Call To Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation

Roll Call and Establish Quorum

A meeting of the Aurora Township Board of Trustees was held at the Aurora Township office, 80 North Broadway, Aurora, IL, at 4 p.m. on Thursday, September 24, 2015. Notice was sent to all members of the Board as required by state statute.

Aurora Township Supervisor Bill Catching called the meeting to order at 4 p.m. Supervisor Catching led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Trustee Hicks gave the invocation.

Aurora Township Deputy Clerk Jason Owens called the roll with the following Board of Trustees members present: Bill Catching – Supervisor; Trustees: Dolores Hicks, David Moore, Juanita Wells and Juan Reyna. Clerk Ken Christy – Excused Absence
Assessor Davis Offutt and Highway Commissioner John Shoemaker – Present.

Staff and Public present – see attached.

- II. Motion to approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting held on September 10, 2015 made by Supervisor Catching, seconded by Trustee Reyna. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

III. Approval and/or Audit of Township and Road District Bills.

- a. Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Hicks to approve the Town Fund bills in the amount of **\$73,082.08**. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- b. Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Moore to approve the Road & Bridge Fund bills in the amount of **\$355,414.03**. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

- c. Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Wells to approve the General Assistance Fund bills in the amount of **\$2,090.35**. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- d. Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Hicks to approve the Mental Health Fund bills in the amount of **\$486,868.52**. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- e. Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Moore to approve the combined IMRF and Road & Bridge IMRF Funds bills in the amount of **\$10,408.46**. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- f. Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Reyna to approve the combined Social Security and Road & Bridge Social Security bills in the amount of **\$5,244.63**. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

IV. Reports

- a. **Assessor's Report** – Report attached. Summary: Assessor Offutt reported that there are approximately 389 Board of Review filings for the township. The assessor and staff are preparing for these upcoming hearings. IT person is researching a replacement server.
- b. **Highway Commissioner's Report** – John Shoemaker. Summary: Brush pick up is coming the week of October 19. Just completed landscaping on Dearborn. Two weeks left (approximately one more mowing) in Senior Lawn program. During transition to winter, we will continue to address shoulders on newly resurfaced roads.
- c. **Supervisor's Report** – Bill Catching. Summary: Supervisor Catching attended a Hercules Park Neighborhood watch meeting with Commissioner Shoemaker on Wednesday, Sept 23. Attendees were complimentary of the roadway patching on Jericho Road completed by the Highway Department. Code violations were discussed as well. Catching also reported that the old leased photocopiers have been returned to the leasing company from the back offices, and that the Fox Valley Park District cut down some underbrush and placed a lot new mulch on the grounds of the Township office near the Fox River. We agreed to maintain that area in the future, Catching said.
- d. **Ride In Kane Department Manager's Report** – Melissa Franks. Report attached. Summary: Ms. Franks reported that a number of the old fleet of RIK buses are scheduled for a final inspection by PACE on October 2, 2015. Ms. Franks also reported that September has been a busy month with 300 more riders than usual this month than in August. She said that a goodly portion of the new ridership was from Batavia and suggested that the new busing company in Batavia might be experiencing issues and we're talking up the slack. Ms. Franks also reported that 20 new clients were added in September.

- e. **Code Enforcement Officer's Report** – Report attached.
- f. **General Assistance Manager's Report** – Suely Cabral. Report attached. Summary: Ms. Cabral reported that nine clients were re-approved for financial assistance with no new clients added. She also reported that two clients were terminated from assistance after they found employment. Finally, Ms. Cabral reported that five new clients were approved for rental assistance under the Emergency Assistance program.
- g. **August Financial Statement Report** – Patricia Richardson. Report Attached. Ms. Richardson addressed Trustee Hicks' question regarding the deficit for Youth Services in August as a matter of invoice timing rather than any budgetary issues.

V. **Unfinished Business** -
None.

VI. **New Business**

a. **Introduction of new Human Resources Coordinator, Laurie Stone.**

Supervisor Catching officially introduced Ms. Stone to the Board of Trustees. Ms. Stone mentioned that she moved into the area within the last few years and has experience in both the private and public sector.

VII. **Public Comments**

Howard Koop, 1135 Barkston, introduced himself to the Board and mentioned he and several members of the audience were motivated seniors that are going to dedicate themselves to keeping taxing bodies honest and reasonable with taxes. Mr. Koop said he had already spoken to the District 131 school board and is concerned about rampant excesses and duplication of services. He also offered his group's help in keeping costs and taxes down.

Jim Breem, resident, introduced himself to the Board and mentioned that he moved in to the Carillon development a couple of years ago and that he appreciates the neighborhood, but he, and other neighbors agree, would not have moved into the area if he had known about the taxes. He said his taxes have increased \$900-\$1600 over the last several years.

Trustee Moore strongly supported the audiences call for fiscal responsibility and mentioned that the Board did not give themselves a raise prior to in the last election cycle.

Commissioner Shoemaker mentioned that the Carillon group, or any group, can inspect the township financial information at any time and suggested they do the same for all of the taxing bodies.

Trustee Reyna discussed communication issues between taxing bodies and proposed improving these situations to avoid duplicating services.

Trustee Wells mentioned the opportunity that Township level of government offers in terms of open meetings and the voting rights at the Annual Town meeting held in April of each year.

Peggy Hicks, resident, commended the Carillon and Stonegate residents for their advocacy.

Supervisor Catching discussed several points regarding Township government's unique position as the most local and responsive governmental body. Catching also mentioned that Township levies are one of the lowest on a property tax bill.

VIII. Announcements

- a. Trustee Reyna announced a new tutoring program at the Aurora Public Library, 1101 S. River St, on Saturdays from 1-4pm. The program is being run by The Merry Tutor (themerrytutor.org).
- b. Supervisor Catching announced Kane County's Well & Septic Informational Meeting on September 30, 2015. (Flyer attached.)
- c. Ms. Cabral announced Marla Fronczak from the Northeastern Illinois Agency on Aging as the speaker at the SCSC meeting to be held on Friday, September 25, 2015 at Sunnymere, 925 Sixth Ave, Aurora, IL 60505. Breakfast is served at 8:30am and the meeting is from 9-10am. Ms. Cabral also reminded the Board that there are no SCSC meetings in November or December and requested suggestions for speakers or topics for next year's meetings.

IX. Adjournment to Executive Closed Session – Motion to adjourn to executive closed session by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Moore. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote at 4:40pm.

X. Reconvene to Open Session - Motion to reconvene open session made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Wells. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote at 5:10 p.m.

XI. Roll Call and Establish Quorum - Aurora Township Deputy Clerk, Jason Owens, called the roll with the following Board of Trustees members present: Bill Catching – Supervisor; Trustees: Dolores Hicks, David Moore, Juanita Wells and Juan Reyna.

XII. Action Resulting from Executive Closed Session

- a. Motion to accept the recommendation of Township attorney in regard to Case 13101E169681 MSI.14191 made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Wells. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- b. Motion to increase staff salaries as presented and amended made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Moore. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

XIII. Adjournment – Motion for adjournment made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Hicks. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote at 5:15 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 8, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. at Aurora Township Office, 80 N. Broadway, Aurora, Illinois.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Owens
Aurora Township Deputy Clerk