

Aurora Township

Board of Trustees Meeting

Main Offices, 80 North Broadway

Aurora, IL.

Date: Thursday, May 12, 2016

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, May 12, 2016. Notice was sent to all members of the Board as required by 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 Dolores 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, Juan Reyna and Juanita Wells.

Assessor Davis Offutt – Present.

Highway Commissioner John Shoemaker – Present.

Staff and Public present – see attached.

- II. Motion to approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting held on April 28, 2016 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 **\$43,298.88**. 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 **\$33,220.80**. 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 **\$6,261.18**. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- d. Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Reyna to approve the combined IMRF and Road & Bridge IMRF Funds bills in the amount of **\$10,529.98**. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- e. Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Hicks to approve the combined Social Security and Road & Bridge Social Security bills in the amount of **\$5,046.14**. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

IV. Reports

- a. **Assessor's Report** – Report attached. Summary: Assessor Offutt reported that they have revalued approximately 93.5% of Aurora Township and expect to turn in their books to the Kane County Assessor by June 15, 2016.
- b. **Highway Commissioner's Report** – John Shoemaker. Summary: Senior Mowing Program is slightly behind due to weather, but all participants seem to be happy with the first few weeks of service. Shoemaker attended a preconstruction meeting with Geneva Construction for the 2016 Resurfacing Program and expects the work to begin on June 1, 2016 and only take 4 days. Commissioner Shoemaker thanked HR Coordinator Laurie Stone for her work to bring the Highway Department up to date with regards to driver background checks, which will now be on the same schedule as the PACE drivers. Shoemaker also warned about the start of the reconstruction of the Farnsworth Avenue bridge over Interstate 88. Message sign boards will be placed on I-88 to urge drivers to use the Eola Road exit. Shoemaker concluded with a mention of an LED street light test being conducted near Trustee Wells' house on Indian Avenue.
- c. **Supervisor's Report** – Bill Catching. Summary: Supervisor Catching reported that a new computer server has been installed at the main office. Catching also reported that the updated employee handbook has been reviewed by an employment law firm and will be ready for the Board of Trustees to review ahead of the next meeting.
- d. **Ride in Kane Manager's Report** – None.
- e. **Youth Services Director's Report** – Scot Thurman. Report attached. Summary: Director Thurman reported that the new youth administrator is in place and doing good work. Thurman also said that the Día de Los Niños festivities last weekend were very successful.

V. **Unfinished Business - None**

VI. **New Business**

- a. **Approval of Suely Ann Cabral as Clerk Pro Tem.** Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Moore to approve the appointment of Suely Ann Cabral as the Clerk Pro Tem for the remainder of the meeting. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. Clerk Pro Tem Cabral assumed minutes from Deputy Clerk Owens.
- b. **Review of applicants to fill vacancy of Township Clerk position.** The Township staff reviewed the applications and determined that each applicant met minimum qualifications for filling the vacancy (Aurora Township resident and a registered Democrat). Each applicant was given three minutes to present a brief summation of his/her qualifications for the position to the Board of Trustees. Applicants for the vacant Township Clerk position were received from the following individuals:
 - i. **Rob Borchert** – Retired from A.I.D. for 10 years after working there for 33 years, overseeing 25 programs. Worked as a teacher at College of DuPage for 10 years. Currently serves as clerk for his church and maintains their website.
 - ii. **Reginald Campbell** – Mr. Campbell was not present, but submitted his cover letter and resume.
 - iii. **David Gruhlke** – Agent for Farmer’s Insurance in Aurora. Lived in Aurora Township since 1997. Has an interest in politics and very familiar with township business. Has been a homeowner for 35 years.
 - iv. **Bonnie Kunkel** –Attorney in Aurora. Served on the Kane County Board for 8 years. Experience with taking detailed minutes. In college, she was the president of the debate society. Does not represent any unit of government and has an understanding of government, meetings and transparency. Committed to make sure the minutes are provided in a timely manner. She is a trained mediator and has received training required by elected officials.
 - v. **Jason Owens** – Current Deputy Clerk of Aurora Township. Chosen to the position by the previous Clerk, the late Ken Christy, and was appointed by this Board of Trustees.
 - vi. **Hector Velasquez** – Lifelong resident of Aurora Township. Political Science degree from Aurora University and serves on the Board at Aurora University. He is connected to the community and would welcome the opportunity to serve the Board of Trustees and the constituents in any way. He understands that he is young, but reminded the Board he is very involved.

- VII. **Adjournment to Executive Closed Session** – Motion to adjourn to executive closed session to discuss appointment of candidate to fill vacant Township Clerk position was made by

Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Moore. Clerk Pro Tem Cabral called the roll with the following Board of Trustees members voting "Yes": Supervisor Bill Catching, Trustee Dolores Hicks, Trustee David Moore, Trustee Juan Reyna and Trustee Juanita Wells. Board adjourned to Executive Session at 4:30 p.m.

VIII. Reconvene to Open Session – Motion to reconvene to open session made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Reyna. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote at 4:50 p.m.

IX. Roll Call and Establish Quorum – Clerk Pro Tem Suely Cabral called the roll with the following Board of Trustees members present: Bill Catching – Supervisor; Trustees: Dolores Hicks, David Moore, Juan Reyna and Juanita Wells.

X. Action Resulting from Executive Closed Session – Supervisor Catching thanked all of the applicants for their interest in the position and their presentations. Catching said that, despite the number of quality outside candidates, the Board had decided to appoint Jason Owens as Aurora Township Clerk. Catching said that Board felt comfortable with the work Mr. Owens had performed as Deputy Clerk for the last three years and also took into consideration that the late Ken Christy had chosen Mr. Owens as his deputy. Trustee Reyna commented that the Board was impressed with all the candidates' presentations. Trustee Moore and Trustee Hicks agreed. Supervisor Catching added that he welcomed any suggestions for improvement to the website or process for posting minutes.

a. Motion to appoint Jason Owens to the vacant Aurora Township Clerk position for the remainder of the current term was made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Hicks. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

b. The oath of office was administered to Jason Owens by Clerk Pro Tem Suely Cabral. Clerk Owens assumed minutes from Clerk Pro Tem Cabral.

XI. Board Member Comments

Supervisor Catching congratulated Trustee Dolores Hicks and Trustee Juanita Wells for receiving 2016 Orchid Awards at the May 7, 2016 meeting of the West Suburban Chicago Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction. Trustee Moore attended and commended both Trustee Hicks and Trustee Wells for their award.

XII. Public Comments

Betsy Bellario handed out a sheet with updated information on the "Kids in Boats" program that she presented to the Board of Trustees at the February 11, 2016 meeting. Ms. Bellario said that the insurance question had been settled (RockTown Adventures has insurance to cover the boaters) and that a new location was chosen (Mastodon Lake) to increase safety for the participants, as she was unable to coordinate a set of

swimming lessons prior to the outing. Ms. Bellario asked for the Board to fund the outing (\$350.00 plus the cost of snacks). Youth Services Director Scot Thurman said that the timing for the outing works well with the Youth Center's schedule as it takes place after the after-school program and before the beginning of summer programs.

Bonnie Kunkel pointed out the outing conflicts with Aurora Green Fest, which is also being held on June 11, 2016. Ms. Kunkel also expressed concern that the children won't have swimming lessons prior to the outing. Ms. Bellario said that she and Mr. Thurman had spoken to Jim Pilmer, Executive Director of Fox Valley Park District, about coordinating swimming lessons for the kids at a future date. Mastodon Lake is very shallow, which is why that venue was chosen over the Fox River.

Peggy Hicks offered that the program is open to all kids, but that most of the children participating at the Aurora Youth Center are "at-risk" and aren't likely to attend both events.

Don Ishmael asked if all of the schools will be notified about the program. Mr. Thurman said that a press release would go out to all of the schools in Aurora Township.

Trustee Wells asked from where the funding would come. Supervisor Catching said that he and Mr. Thurman would discuss which line item it would come from, but that it would be funded by the Township.

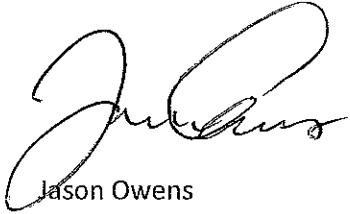
XIII. Announcements

- a. Supervisor Catching announced that a Public Hearing on Township Budget and the Road District Budget will be held on Thursday, June 9, 2016. The meeting will begin at 3:30 p.m. at the Aurora Township offices at 80 N. Broadway, Aurora, IL 60505.
- b. TRIAD Spring Cleaning 2016 event for senior citizens will be held at Prisco Community Center on May 14, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Event is sponsored by Aurora Township, City of Aurora Alderwomen Tina Bohman and Alderman Mike Saville.
- c. 5 Bs Catering Fundraiser on June 20, 2016 at Aurora Township Senior and Youth Center (313 Gale Street, Aurora, IL) from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$13 for one or \$25 for two tickets. Proceeds benefit youth scholarships in Aurora.
- d. African American Men of Unity (AAMOU) is hosting a Breakfast Fundraiser on May 14, 2016 from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at New Covenant Full Gospel Church (1029 Kane Street, Aurora, IL). Tickets are \$10. Proceeds to benefit AAMOU activities throughout Aurora Township.


XIV. Adjournment – Motion for adjournment made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Moore. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote at 5:08 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 26, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. at Aurora Township Office, 80 N. Broadway, Aurora, IL.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Owens".

Jason Owens
Aurora Township Clerk

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Suely Cabral".
Suely Cabral
Aurora Township Clerk Pro Tem