

Aurora Township

Board of Trustees Meeting

Main Offices, 80 North Broadway

Aurora, IL.

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

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, February 9, 2017. Notice was sent to all members of the Board as required by statute.

Aurora Township Supervisor, Bill Catching, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Supervisor Catching led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Trustee Hicks gave the invocation.

Aurora Township Clerk, Jason Owens, called the roll with the following Board of Trustees members present: Bill Catching – Supervisor; Trustees: Dolores Hicks, David Moore, Juan Reyna, Juanita Wells.

Clerk Jason Owens – Present.

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 January 26, 2017 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 **\$25,791.53**. 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 **\$12,317.48**. 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 **\$5,572.34**. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- d. Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Reyna to approve the Equipment & Building Fund bills in the amount of **\$12,885.53**. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- e. Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Hicks to approve the CDAP Fund bills in the amount of **\$200.00**. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- f. 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 **\$8,807.84**. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- g. Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Wells to approve the combined Social Security and Road & Bridge Social Security bills in the amount of **\$5,494.74**. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

IV. Reports

- a. **Assessor's Report** – Davis Offutt. Summary: The 2016 assessments will be rolled over to 2017 on Feb 10. The 2017 revalue process will begin in the middle of February.
- b. **Highway Commissioner's Report** – John Shoemaker. Summary: The latest update for the Rural Street bridge detour is that there will be no detour, but a road closure with no official posted detour. With the lack of snow, the team has spent a lot of time on maintenance of equipment, the building and the ROWs. The drivers will attend a road safety class at Kane County Department of Transportation.
- c. **Supervisor's Report** – Bill Catching. Summary: The vacant property at 1108 6th Ave has been boarded up by Kane County, but the County is saying the notification process must be played out according to the law (45 day process). The problem house at Ridgeway and Randall was demolished. The Senior Tax referendum will not appear on the April 4, 2017 ballot due to the paperwork not being filed in time. Bette Schoenholtz, Executive Director of Senior Services Associates (SSA) was informed about the issue and was disappointed, but understood the reason. Trustee Moore asked why the paperwork wasn't turned in. Catching said it was a matter of opinion. Trustee Wells asked who was at fault. Clerk Owens said he never had the paperwork to file. Catching said there has been a strained working relationship between he and Owens. Trustee Moore asked for an executive session to discuss this issue at the next meeting. Trustee Hicks said she

spoke with Mickie at SSA and after discussing that the referendum would not be on the ballot, they both agreed that it might not be the best time to appear anyway. Catching also reported that there was legislation appearing in Springfield that would allow township boards to eliminate themselves or consolidate with other townships. The proposal would also allow for highway departments with less than 15 miles of roads to be eliminated. Catching said TOI felt that the legislation, as currently presented, didn't require a response as it kept the decision to remove township governments within the vote of the townships themselves.

- d. **Ride in Kane Manager's Report** – Melissa Wilmot. Summary: Larry is back from a broken foot, but another driver is out with an illness. Ridership is down due to not being fully staffed with drivers, with one route being closed per day. Catching clarified that the rides provided by Aurora Township drivers are down, but the number of rides sponsored by Aurora Township is steady, but more third party providers are being used to make up for the staff shortage. Trustee Hicks asked if the Youth Center and Ride in Kane share drivers. Ms. Wilmot said yes and that Mr. Thurman had been very generous with his support by allowing his drivers to help out Ride In Kane when they can.
- e. **Youth Services Director's Report** – Scot Thurman. Summary: Drivers will soon begin picking up seniors from Constitution House, Asbury Court and Alden for the new line dancing program. In general, the new programs are getting a good response from participants. Trustee Moore asked about staffing concerns and how they impact services. Mr. Thurman said his facility makes the most out of the staff they have, but that they do need to hire a full time employee with a Masters in Social Work. Trustee Hicks said she recently attended a meeting and was concerned that people didn't know what programs the Aurora Township had. Mr. Thurman agreed that more communication is needed and mentioned two programs that are among the best values around for kids (the after school program and the summer camp program), but need more communication to the schools of their existence. Trustee Reyna asked about the portable benches. Mr. Thurman said they aren't very sturdy and that they aren't really designed for holding adults (which is what they are being used for now) and that they likely wouldn't last through the summer.

V. **Unfinished Business**

- a. **Proclamation – Jo Fredell Higgins Retirement from Aurora Township Youth Commission.**

Motion to approve Proclamation – Jo Fredell Higgins Retirement from Aurora Township Youth Commission made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Reyna.
Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Discussion: Supervisor Catching read the proclamation and thanked Ms. Fredell Higgins for her years of service. Ms. Fredell Higgins said was pleased and thankful for the

recognition and that she believed in term limits and therefore twenty years was enough. Trustee Moore asked if Ms. Fredell Higgins was planning on continuing her columns in *The Voice*, which she said she is hoping to and is glad for the opportunity to discuss topics that aren't solely political. Ms. Fredell Higgins thanked Scot Thurman for being a great leader of the Youth Center and wished Paul Patricoski good luck in his term as Chair of the Aurora Township Youth Commission. Mr. Thurman thanked Ms. Fredell Higgins and said he was very happy to have worked with her.

b. Resolution 2017-02 Intergovernmental Agreement – Aurora Township Road District Senior Mowing Program 2017.

Motion to table Resolution 2017-02 Intergovernmental Agreement – Aurora Township Road District Senior Mowing Program 2017 made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Wells. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

VI. New Business

a. Authorization for Township Supervisor to hire a full-time Ride In Kane driver.

Motion to authorize Township Supervisor to hire a full-time Ride In Kane driver made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Hicks. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Discussion: Supervisor Catching said the position will pay \$15 per hour with full benefits. A new hire is needed for Ride In Kane to be fully staffed, but also to prepare for the eventual retirement of several current drivers.

b. Approval of CDAP Loan Application – Douglas Floor Covering, Inc.

Motion to approve CDAP loan application of Douglas Floor Covering, Inc made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Moore. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Discussion: Catching said this was the first CDAP loan application in over 8 years, which is partly due to the recession and also the restrictive guidelines of the loan program. Catching said that the Loan Committee is recommending approval of the application. Catching explained that the loan process included the application from Douglas Flooring, a review by Vanessa Aguirre, commercial lender from Old Second Bank, and then a meeting of the Township Loan committee, which consisted of Supervisor Catching and Trustees Moore and Reyna. (Trustee Reyna subbed for Township Attorney Patricoski due to a conflict of interest.) Once the Loan Committee recommends an application, it is brought before the full Board and voted upon. Catching said Douglas Flooring wants

to expand into the custom closets business and has successfully utilized CDAP loans in other communities. Trustee Reyna said he was very impressed with the loan application and presentation to the committee. Catching said the loan, pending approval by the board, should close within 45 days.

VII. Board Member Comments

None.

VIII. Public Comments

Jo Fredell Higgins – Ms. Fredell Higgins asked when early voting ends. Trustee Moore looked up the information on the Kane County Clerk's website and said early voting extends all the way up to the day before the February 28 election.

Paul Patricoski – Mr. Patricoski said that the recognition for Ms. Fredell Higgins was richly deserved and thanked the Board for honoring Ms. Fredell Higgins.

IX. Announcements

16th Annual Black History Celebration will be held on February 17, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Prisco Community Center (150 W. Illinois). This is a free event and includes gospel and spoken word performances. Soul food will be served and families are welcome.

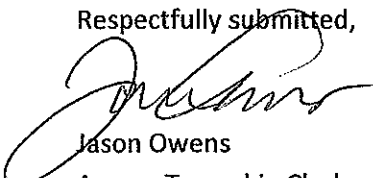
Race Relations forum sponsored by the Kane County Sheriff office on February 22, 2017.

The Senior Luncheon at the Township Senior Center at noon on February 24, 2017 will also celebrate Black History month with ethnic food and presentations.

X. Adjournment – Motion for adjournment made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Hicks. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote at 4:49 p.m.

Next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 23, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. at Aurora Township Office, 80 N. Broadway, Aurora, IL.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason Owens
Aurora Township Clerk