

**Aurora Township
Board of Trustees Meeting
Main Offices, 80 North Broadway
Aurora, IL.**

**Date: Thursday, February 28, 2019
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 28, 2019. 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 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 Brenda Hernandez.

Clerk Reginald Campbell – Excused Absent.

Assessor Davis Offutt – Present.

Highway Commissioner Juan Reyna – Excused Absent.

Staff and Public present – see attached.

- II. Motion to approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting held on February 14, 2019 made by Supervisor Catching, seconded by Trustee Hicks. 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 Moore to approve the Town Fund bills in the amount of **\$42,876.76**. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- b. Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Wells to approve the Road & Bridge Fund bills in the amount of **\$15,520.35**. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- c. Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Hicks to approve the General Assistance Fund bills in the amount of **\$3,105.24**. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- d. Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Wells to approve the Joint Bridge Fund bills in the amount of **\$3,534.06**. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- e. Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Hicks to approve the combined IMRF and Road & Bridge IMRF Funds bills in the amount of **\$4,475.09**. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- f. Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Moore to approve the combined Social Security and Road & Bridge Social Security bills in the amount of **\$5,437.35**. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

IV. Reports

- a. **Assessor's Report** – Davis Offutt. Summary: Assessor Offutt passed along a “thank you” from retired Chief Deputy Assessor Carol Van Hooser for the resolution honoring her.
- b. **Highway Commissioner's Report** – Written report.
- c. **Supervisor's Report** – Bill Catching. Summary: Supervisor Catching reported that an invoice from PACE was received that reflected unbilled service for September through December 2018. (Chief of Staff Richardson clarified the invoice amount as approximately \$80,000.) Catching also reported that they are waiting for the reimbursement statement from PACE for January 2019. Catching explained that a new PACE liaison is in place and is still learning the billing system.
- d. **Code Enforcement Officer's Report** – Written Report.
- e. **General Assistance Manager's Report** – Suely Cabral. Summary: Ms. Cabral reported fourteen applicants were re-approved for assistance, while two residents were terminated from the assistance program. Ms. Cabral stated seven applicants were approved for emergency financial assistance.
- f. **Presentation of January 2019 Financial Statements** – Patricia Richardson. Chief of Staff Richardson stated that the financials look good and she is working with the department heads to make certain that the end of the year expenses conform to the budget.

V. Unfinished Business

None.

VI. New Business

a. Proposed Budget and Appropriation Ordinance – Aurora Township.

Discussion: Supervisor Catching asked that the proposed Aurora Township Budget be placed on display for the required 30 days. Chief of Staff Richardson noted that a proposed \$80,000 line item for the purchase of a bus was transferred to a capital expenditure line item to help pay for updating the air conditioning system at the Youth Center. Ms. Richardson also stated that April 9, 2019 is the earliest date the budget hearing could take place. April 9, 2019 is the date of the annual meeting. Supervisor Catching stated the budget ordinance needed to be passed by the end of May 2019.

b. Proposed Budget and Appropriation Ordinance – Aurora Township Road District.

Discussion: Deputy Clerk Owens, on behalf of the Road District, stated that several large invoices from the current fiscal year have not arrived yet, which will impact the budget for the next fiscal year. Owens reported that the Road District's proposed budget will be presented at the next Board meeting.

c. Resolution 2019-05 Transfer of Appropriation – Town Fund.

Discussion: Supervisor Catching stated the proposed transfer was mainly due to two emergency furnace repair requests made during the severe cold spell. Catching said the Township was able to respond faster to the requests than other groups that may have normally been approached for the funds.

Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Hicks to approve Resolution 2019-05 Transfer of Appropriation – Town Fund in the amount of **\$4,000.00**. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

d. Resolution 2019-06 Transfer of Appropriation – General Assistance Fund.

Discussion: Supervisor Catching stated the proposed transfer was due to additional training for Suely Cabral required by recent changes to General Assistance procedures.

Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Moore to approve Resolution 2019-06 Transfer of Appropriation – General Assistance Fund in the amount of **\$100.00**. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

e. Resolution 2019-07 Establishing Aurora Township Senior Citizens Services Committee and Appointing members. Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Hicks to table Resolution 2019-07 Establishing Aurora Township Senior Citizens Services Committee and Appointing members. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

- f. **Discussion Regarding Aurora African American Heritage Museum, Ricky Rodgers**
Discussion: Mr. Rodgers pointed out the name change to Sankofa African Heritage Museum. Mr. Rodgers explained that “Sankofa” refers to an African bird that flies forward while looking behind, which is symbolic of honoring heritage. Mr. Rodgers reported the museum applied for, and received, their EIN and also received a \$25,000 donation from NICOR. Mr. Rodgers stated the City of Aurora (COA) prefers a downtown location for the museum and offered to sell one of the city-owned properties to the museum. Mr. Rodgers states that the proposed budget for the museum included line items for bringing a future location up to code and the installation of an elevator, which would increase the number of COA properties under consideration. Trustee Wells stressed the importance of accessibility for handicapped visitors. Trustee Moore agreed that a downtown location would be a better situation than the original location. Trustee Hernandez asked if the \$25,000 donation request was for a one-time donation or an annual request. Mr. Rodgers said the request is for a one-time donation, but the museum might ask for additional funding in the future. Supervisor Catching thanked Mr. Rodgers for his presentation and commended him on the additional work completed by the museum team. Catching stated his desire to see the museum group proceed further with the City of Aurora and other local philanthropic resources before considering the donation request. Catching expressed his concern that a donation to the Sankofa Museum project would create a cascading set of donation requests for similar projects which the Township may not be able to fund.

VII. Board Member Comments

Trustee Moore recognized Kane County Sheriff Deputies Vidrio and Zentmyer in the audience and thanked them for their attendance and their service to the community. Trustee Moore suggested the Township consider the active shooter training presented by the Kane County Sheriff's department for all employees, but particularly the Youth Center and adding the training to the Aurora Township Employee Handbook.

Trustee Hicks commented that TRIAD trains the seniors how to respond in active shooter situations. Trustee Hicks also thanked the deputies for their service.

Trustee Wells stated that she was impressed by the first responders and how well the separate groups were able to integrate with each other and act as one unit.

Trustee Hernandez thanked the deputies for their attendance and thanked the first responders in general for their actions and professionalism during the recent event. Trustee Hernandez reported that she attended a recent meeting with Sheriff Hain during which he explained how the event unfolded and some of the challenges the law enforcement teams faced. Trustee Hernandez said that she came away even more impressed by the response after learning of these challenges.

VIII. Public Comments

- a. Marjorie L. – Resident. Thanked Bill Poss, owner of Luigi’s Pizza for opening his facility to the first responders during the event in Aurora.
- b. Peggy Hicks – Resident. Thanked the Aurora Township for their support of the Afro-American History month activities. Ms. Hicks also mentioned the award presented to Liz Robinson Chan recognizing her efforts in the community. Ms. Hicks also mentioned that “Team Aurora” will begin meeting again soon.
- c. Deputy Zentmyer stated that Deputy Vidrio is the newest member of the Kane County Sheriff’s Aurora Township team. Deputy Zentmyer said there are two deputies assigned to Aurora Township and to contact Deputy Vidrio with any concerns. Supervisor Catching thanked the deputies for their recent assistance involving code enforcement.

IX. Announcements

Suely Cabral handed out a flier for the next TRIAD senior event, “Rules of the Road” which is being held at the Prisco Community Center on Tuesday, March 26, 2019. The presentation is a partnership between the IL Secretary of State, TRIAD and Aurora Township.

Peggy Hicks mentioned “Talking with Millennials” as the final event of Afro-American History month. Ms. Hicks said the working session would include discussions on how to improve communications with kids and how to pass the collective history and experience to the younger generations.

- X. Adjournment** – Motion for adjournment made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Moore. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote at 4:52 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. at Aurora Township Office, 80 N. Broadway, Aurora, IL.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason Owens

Aurora Township Deputy Clerk