

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

**Date: Thursday, July 25, 2019  
Time: 4:00 P.M.**

**Minutes--Amended**

- 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, July 25, 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 – Present.

Staff and Public present – see attached.

- II. Motion to approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting held on July 11, 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 Hicks to approve the Town Fund bills in the amount of **\$51,994.78**. Trustee Hernandez asked for an explanation of the Fox Valley Marines, Fox Valley Park District, Ideal Fence and JPC Tree Care expenses. Supervisor Catching explained the expenses were for an event sponsorship benefiting veterans, background screening for new hires, fence repair at the Township Cemetery after a hit and run accident and tree trimming for a resident through the Township's "Handyman" program respectively. 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 **\$40,829.57**. Trustee Hernandez asked for an explanation for the Gerald Ford expense. Commissioner Reyna explained it was for repair work that could not be performed in-house. 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 **\$5,055.78**. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- d. Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Hicks to approve the Equipment and Building Fund bills in the amount of **\$2,337.29**. 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 **\$4,212.41**. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- f. 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 **\$6,246.70**. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**IV. Reports**

- a. **Assessor's Report** – Davis Offutt. Summary: Written report submitted. Assessor Offutt said the Kane County Supervisor of Assessments is calculating the equalization factor, which should be completed by the end of August 2019.
- b. **Highway Commissioner's Report** – Juan Reyna. Summary: Written Report submitted. Commissioner Reyna stated that the demolition of the Rural Street bridge was completed and the reconstruction of the bridge had begun. Reyna said the completion date for the reconstruction project isn't available yet.
- c. **Supervisor's Report** – Bill Catching. Summary: Supervisor Catching reported that open enrollment went smoothly. Catching said that the installation of security cameras at the Youth Center was complete and the security cameras for the main office were to be installed on Friday, July 26. Supervisor Catching said a Ride-In-Kane rider called PACE with a commendation for one the drivers, LaShon Harden. Catching said Ms. Harden

deserves the accolades and riders frequently contact the office with compliments for Ms. Harden as she goes beyond expectations to help the riders she has on her bus. Supervisor Catching reported the Senior Services Advisory Commission received five grant fund applications (AID, Living Daylight Corp, Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry, Senior Services Associates and Aurora Township Senior Services) requesting approximately \$600,000 in funding. Catching said \$485,000 in grant funding is available. Supervisor Catching said the Advisory Commission is set to meet on August 6, 2019 at the Main Office starting at 10am to discuss the proposals and then submit funding recommendations for the Board of Trustees' approval.

- d. **Code Enforcement Officer's Report** – Written report submitted. Summary: Supervisor Catching noted that the code enforcement group had been busy.
- e. **General Assistance Manager's Report** – Suely Cabral. Written report submitted. Summary: Ms. Cabral reported thirteen clients were reapproved for financial assistance, four new clients were approved for financial assistance and two clients were terminated from the program. Ms. Cabral stated that three applicants were approved for the Emergency Assistance program. Trustee Hicks asked Ms. Cabral to explain the program. Ms. Cabral explained that the program provides rental assistance for residents who are 30 days late on rent or have received a 5 day notice and meet the income guidelines established by the General Assistance program. Ms. Cabral said residents can only receive emergency assistance one every two years and cannot also be eligible for the General Assistance program.
- f. **Presentation of June 2019 Financial Statements** – Patricia Richardson. Summary: Ms. Richardson reported that the financials for June are normal and routine. Ms. Richardson mentioned that the June reports tend to look good due to receiving the first installment of property taxes from Kane County. Ms. Richardson mentioned that the Township received three months of PACE invoices for the Ride-In-Kane program in June.

**V. Unfinished Business**

None.

**VI. New Business**

- a. **Ordinance 2019-27 Ordinance Authorizing Aggregation of Electrical Load and Adopting an Electric Aggregation Plan of Operation and Governance, Arnie Schramel, Progressive Energy Group.** Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Moore to approve Ordinance 2019-27 Authorizing Aggregation of Electrical Load and Adopting an Electric Aggregation Plan of Operation and Governance, Arnie Schramel, Progressive Energy Group.

Discussion: Arnie Schramel, Progressive Energy Group, summarized the history of the establishment of electrical aggregation in Aurora Township (unincorporated residents

voted 71% in favor of a referendum in 2013 to establish electrical aggregation contracts). Mr. Schramel explained that the Township established three aggregation contracts covering four of the six years since the referendum passed (one 2 year contract and two 1 year contracts) Mr. Schramel said there were no aggregation contracts in effect in the other two years they created no savings over ComEd rates. Mr. Schramel said he is advising 12 month contracts moving forward and the next contract, which covers September 2019 through July 2020, should save residents \$70 during the life of the contract versus ComEd rates after only saving residents \$7 last year. Supervisor Catching said he received a lot of complaints about the auto-enrollment aspect of the program. Mr. Schramel responded that aggregation contracts only work if auto-enrollment is used and residents are able to opt-out of the aggregation contract at any time with no penalty. Trustee Hicks said she appreciated the contract length of 12 months. Trustee Wells asked about notification letters. Mr. Schramel explained that residents will receive two letters – one explaining the program and opt-out process and then a second letter from ComEd which gives the residents another opportunity to opt-out of the program. Trustee Hernandez asked about the ComEd fees and reimbursement line item. Mr. Schramel explained that the aggregator reimburses the Township for the fee ComEd charges to provide the list of residents in the unincorporated area eligible for the aggregation contract. Mr. Schramel also explained the aggregator is not paid a fee by the Township for its services

Deputy Clerk Owens called roll. Supervisor Catching voted yes. Trustee Hernandez abstained. Trustee Hicks voted yes. Trustee Moore voted yes. Trustee Wells voted yes. Ordinance passed with four yes votes and one abstention.

## **VII. Board Member Comments**

- a. Trustee Wells asked about the progress on the new Senior Center. Micki Miller, Executive Director of Senior Services Aurora, reported that the landlord is being as accommodating as possible, but only has one employee available to work on the buildout of the new location on the first floor. Ms. Miller said that the first floor area is gutted and all permits are in hand, but the construction work is lagging. Ms. Miller said the recent breakdowns involving the building's elevator intensified her frustration and desire to see the buildout completed soon.
- b. Trustee Wells asked about the senior newsletter. Ms. Miller said that 400 seniors receive a home visit from Senior Services every other month and in the opposite month of the home visit, they receive a senior newsletter.
- c. Trustee Moore thanked Senior Services Associates for re-engaging seniors, who were very productive members of society. Trustee Moore said a compassionate government and service organizations such as Senior Services Associates keep societal groups engaged and safe. Trustee Moore explained the township level of government is the

closest to the people and remains responsive and vital in the lives of some of the most marginalized segments of society.

#### **VIII. Public Comments**

- a. Dick Leonard (Margaret Ln) – Read an email regarding FOIA requests.
- b. Peggy Hicks (North Park Ave) – Presented her god-daughter Victoria Cantu as a successful graduate of Aurora Township outreach efforts to engage kids in STEM activities and thanked the Board for the programs provided for kids.
- c. Micki Miller (Executive Director, Senior Services Aurora) – Thanked the Board for their general support of senior programs and specifically their support during the move to the new Senior Services Center.
- d. Paul Heinkel (Activities Coordinator, Senior Services Aurora) – Thanked the Board for their continued support of senior programs. Mr. Heinkel mentioned the tremendous help provided through the Township buses, Trustee Hicks assistance at the senior lunches and Commissioner Reyna’s quarterly help in providing food for the senior lunches. Mr. Heinkel emphasized the importance of the youth programs provided by the Township, as the Township programs engage a different segment of youth than similar programs available through the Fox Valley Park District.
- e. Micki Miller (Executive Director, Senior Services Aurora) – Stated that the senior programs provided by the Township also reach a different segment of the senior population than similar programs provided by the Fox Valley Park District. Ms. Miller said many seniors are not able to afford the FVPD programs and the Township programs encourage seniors to be active and out of the house. Ms. Miller explained studies have shown seniors who stay home and become isolated experience detrimental effects similar to, or worse than, smoking.
- f. Pastor Johnny McGowan (Gayles Memorial Baptist Church) - Suggested providing copies of the newsletter to the local churches as an effort to expand the circulation of the senior newsletter.
- g. Matt Hanson (Kane County Board Member) – Stated that he supported the idea of increasing the circulation of the senior newsletter by involving other community groups such as churches.

#### **IX. Announcements**

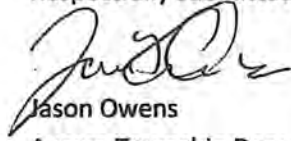
- a. Assessor Offutt announced that he will be joining Mark Armstrong, the Kane County Supervisor of Assessments, for a property tax information session at the Aurora Police Department (1200 Indian Trail) on July 30, 2019 from 6pm-9pm.
- b. Suely Cabral announced the annual TRIAD Picnic will take place at Phillips Park on August 13, 2019. Ms. Cabral said Mayor Irving, Sheriff Hain, the Kane County SWAT team and a Color Guard will attend the picnic. Registrations (\$3.00) are being handled by the Prisco Center.

- c. Suely Cabral announced the annual TRIAD State Conference is scheduled for September 24-25, 2019 in Northlake, IL. Registration is free to seniors and \$25/day for everyone else.
- d. Suely Cabral announced the SCSC Committee meeting on Friday, July 26, 2019 at Sunnymere. Trustee Hicks mentioned that she attended Sunnymere's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration last week.
- e. Suely Cabral announced the Township's National Night Out event will be held on Tuesday, August 6 from 4pm-7:30pm at the Youth Center (313 Gale St). Commissioner Reyna mentioned that the Highway Department is providing a tent and generator for the event.
- f. Supervisor Catching announced seats are still available in the Township truck for the Puerto Rican Heritage Parade this weekend.
- g. Supervisor Catching announced a Back to School event on August 9, 2019 co-sponsored by the African American Men of Unity.
- h. Trustee Hicks announced a Senior Expo at Drury Lane on August 20, 2019. Trustee Hicks mentioned that the Township provides busing for seniors interested in attending.

**X. Adjournment** – Motion for adjournment made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Hicks. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote at 4:50 p.m.

**Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 8, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. at Aurora Township Office, 80 N. Broadway, Aurora, IL.**

Respectfully submitted,



Jason Owens

Aurora Township Deputy Clerk