

AURORA TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MAIN OFFICES: 80 N. BROADWAY
AURORA, ILLINOIS
Date: April 28, 2011
Time: 4:00 p.m.
MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGENCE
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, Illinois at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday April 28, 2011. Notice was sent to all members of the Board as required by statute.

Aurora Township Supervisor Christina Campos called the meeting to order. Supervisor Campos led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Aurora Township Clerk Herbert Hill did the roll call with the following members present: Bill Catching, Delores Hicks, Christina Campos, David Moore, and Mark Semmler'

Public Present: Please see attached.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF
APRIL 12, 2011**

A motion to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting held on Tuesday April 12, 2011 was made by David Moore and seconded by Delores Hicks. Motion carried. (Voice Vote) Subject to amendment.

III. APPROVAL AND/OR AUDIT OF TOWNSHIP AND ROAD DISTRICT BILLS

A motion to approve **the Town Bills** in the amount of \$91, 962.55 was made by Delores Hicks with a second by David Moore. Motion carried. (Voice Vote)

During the Trustee's discussion of Road District billing, Supervisor Campos moved to add the Teamsters billing to the Road Districts debit account. Motion was seconded by David Moore, and motion carried. (Voice vote)

A motion to audit the **Revised Road and Bridge Bills** in the amount of \$25, 909.10 was made by Delores Hicks with a second by David Moore. Motion carried. (Voice Vote)

A motion to audit the **General Assistance Bills** in the amount of \$8, 620.60 was made by David Moore with a second by Bill Catching. Motion carried. (Voice Vote)

A combined motion to approve **the IMRF BILL** and the **R&B IMRF Bill** in the amount of \$18, 400.80 was made by Delores Hicks and seconded by David Moore.
Motion carried. (Voice Vote)

A combined motion to approve **the SOCIAL SECURITY** and **R&B SOCIAL SECURITY Bill** in the amount of \$11, 690.90 was made by Delores Hicks and seconded by David Moore.
Motion carried. (Voice Vote)

IV. REPORTS

1. Assessor's Report

Mr. Davis Offutt also filed a written report. See attached.

Mr. Offutt announced that the Tax Bills were out, and explained that one should look to the tax bill for a good explanation of the bill.

The Assessor's office has begun the revaluing of all the Aurora Township assessment parcels for 2011 payable 2012.

Mr. Davis expressed that the new phone system working because complaint calls were being received.

2. Roads & Bridges

Commissioner John Shoemaker explained that resurfacing and everything is backed up because of weather issues, but nonetheless the Dept was working toward completion. The Dept was one worker down because of disability; however someone else was in his place, so there was a full staff.

Commissioner Shoemaker also explained that Jody wanted to use the work done at Parkside for display to other Road District Departments.

Supervisor Campos thanked Mr. Shoemaker for his gift for Orchard Valley golf.

3. Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Campos reported that the "Ride in Kane" program continues to grow.

Supervisor Campos also referred to the General Assistance March 2011 relief provided.

See "Summary Report" attached

Supervisor Campos reported that the Township has received \$10,000 from the County for soccer playground upkeep.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Resolution 2011-02. Financial Review Procedures

Delores Hicks moved to table the “bonding issue” relating to “Resolution B” (Resolution 2011-02 - “Resolution B” – involved a second signature in township disbursements), because of outstanding questions.

Mark Semmler stated that he was still looking at 2 outstanding options: the co-signature issue and bonding. Expressing that another option is to have a third individual look over checks.

David Moore expressed that the first option involving bonding must be at 7 mil as provided by TOIRMA, and a second set of eyes to oversee checks. Mr. Moore suggested a system similar to Batavia’s. Expressing the belief that if we could achieve the same result for over cite he would agree.

Bill Catching expressed the view that the issue of a trustee looking at checks would not necessarily resolve the issue, there must be a second set of eyes reviewing.

Mr. Catching stated that he could not support the alternatives and questioned why we can’t get bonding for a second signature.

Mr. Moore asked Township Attorney Edwin Trinta to distinguish the certification issue between TOIRMA and another agency.

Moore explained that stemming from the second issue we know that TOIRMA will not bond another person (Trustee or otherwise). We can go to a private vendor to get \$350,000 coverage for \$100,000. What are the legal ramifications in going to a private vendor?

Attorney Trinta explained that Ch. 60 Sec. 170/5 requires the same bonding as the Supervisor.

Bill Catching expressed that he found it hard to believe that other Townships have the same problem.

Trustee Moore moved to table consideration of the issue consistent with Trustee Hicks for the next meeting, and asked Township Attorney Trinta to investigate the issue of second signature costs.

Trustee Catching expressed the view that the issue sounds like a question of bond costs as opposed to a legal question.

A motion was made by David Moore and seconded by Delores Hicks to continue the matter to the next meeting. Motion carried. (Voice vote).

Supervisor Campos moved to approve the Tentative 2011 Budget.

Bill Catching asked for a definition of “tentative”, and after explanation, the motion was seconded by David Moore. Motion carried. (Voice vote).

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Code enforcement update:

Discussion was had on the property located at 911 W. Maywood, Aurora, IL and the surrounding properties affected by it.

Trustee Moore stated that he had met with Supervisor Campos regarding the issues raised by Ed Schmidt and Ms. Linda Becker relating to the subject property and concluded that there was a disconnect in communication regarding the problem.

Mr. Moore stated that the subject property fits the criteria for “a nuisance property” under the existing code and must be fixed.

Mr. Moore was satisfied after meetings that issue will not recur.

Attorney Trinta discussed options on how the board can move forward on an alleged nuisance.

Attorney Trinta explained that the nuisance ordinance in place allows the Trustees to vote to address the specific issue re: 911 W. Marywood. All prior notices necessary pursuant to statute are in place to allow the Trustee’s to act appropriately to abate it, plus costs, liens and attorney’s fees, etc.

Attorney Trinta explained that the Trustee’s had three (3) options:

- A. Trustee action.
- B. Law suit – invoking governmental penalty.
- C. Setting up board to handle nuisance – (by enforcement officer) providing notice, right to be heard and opportunity to abate.

David Moore moved that the property at 911 W. Marywood be declared a nuisance and that the property be brought into compliance. Motion seconded by Bill Catching. Motion carried. (Voice vote)

Mr. Ed Schmidt along with Ms. Linda Becker appeared before the board with pictures of the properties at: 911 W. Marywood,
1521 Woodlawn, and
1470 Church Rd.

They explained that these properties have not been cleaned up despite 7 months of notice to the Board of Trustees. Mr. Schmidt related that the problems relating to these properties have been in existence for 11 years. Two (2) of the depicted properties, (1521 Woodlawn and 1470 Church Rd) were alleged to have been cleaned up, but were not.

Mr. Schmidt stated that the code enforcer (Hector) observed these properties in March, 2011 and nothing has been done.

Mr. Moore produced a copy of a letter for Mr. Schmidt (for his records) that he submitted to the present Trustees re: the property at 911 Marywood, and apologized for past indiscretions, and inaction by the previous Boards, assuring Mr. Schmidt that the problem will be corrected, and that he would follow the law.

Mr. Schmidt continued to argue that each property has been shown to the present Trustees 7 month ago and that no progress has been seen. Stating that the properties have cited but nothing has been done.

Ms. Linda Becker stated that the property at 1470 Church Rd was observed by the code enforcer and he did nothing.

Mr. Moore moved that the properties submitted by Mr. Schmidt and Ms. Becker be declared a nuisance.

Township Attorney Edwin Trinta explained what procedures should be taken and how the properties should be cleaned or the nuisance abated. He explained that it depends on what the conditions are.

Mr. Schmidt questioned the code enforcement officer's judgment as to the nuisances, stating that the officer was sent to the properties in March and he did nothing.

Mr. Schmidt and Ms. Becker want to know, in the future, what is being done.

Supervisor Campos stated that she will share e-mails with the Trustee's and will keep the people advised.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Sue Varso questioned why the real-estate issue was a closed session item. She thought closed session meetings were only for issues relating to personnel matters. Bill Catching explained that her reasoning was incorrect. That reason for the executive session was to discuss the merits of the possible purchase. Opening up the discussion for the public could possibly compromise costs and other issues related to the property

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Campos thanked all for their participation in the Buffalo Wild Wing fundraiser, it was a success, as was the TRIAD preventing Prescription drug abuse on April 25-26 at the Youth Center.

Hope Series Program on Suicide prevention April 30, 2011 at Linden Oaks.

EL Dia de Los Niño's, April 30, 2011.

Sierra Club Aurora Clean-up Day, April 30, 2011,

Rebuilding Together Work Day at the Youth Center, April 30, 2011.

Aurora Township will host AITCOY meeting at the Youth Center on May 24, 2011.

EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION – Discussion of purchase or lease of real property

A motion was made by Christina Campos to adjourn to executive session seconded by David Moore. Roll Call vote was had, all members voting – Yes.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m. to Executive Session.

Motion to reconvene to regular meeting was made by Bill Catching seconded by David Moore at 5:32p.m. Motion carried. (Voice vote)

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by David Moore and seconded by Delores Hicks. Motion carried and the Meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 12 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.

Herbert Hill

Aurora Township Clerk