

AURORA TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MAIN OFFICES, 80 N. BROADWAY
AURORA, ILLINOIS

MAY 23, 2013

Time: 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISH QUORUM

A meeting of the Aurora Township Board of Trustees was held at the Aurora Township office, 80 N. Broadway, Aurora, IL, at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 23, 2013. Notice was sent to all members of the Board as required by statute.

Aurora Township Supervisor Bill Catching called the meeting to order. Catching led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The invocation was given by Trustee Dolores Hicks.

Aurora Township Clerk Ken Christy called the roll with the following Board members present: Catching, Hicks, David Moore, Juan Reyna and Juanita Wells. John Shoemaker, Road Commissioner, and Davis Offutt, Township Assessor, were also present.

Staff present: See attached list.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF MAY 9TH. 2013

Motion was made by Catching to approve the minutes of the meeting , May 9th. Motion was seconded by Reyna. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

III. MOTION TO APPROVE TOWN BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 157,390.50

was made by Catching and seconded by Moore. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

IV. MOTION TO APPROVE ROAD & BRIDGE BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 18,206.17

was made by Catching and seconded by Moore. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

V. MOTION TO APPROVE GENERAL ASSISTANCE BILLS OF \$7,693.45

was made by Catching and seconded by Moore. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

VI. Combined Motion to approve IMRF and R&B IMRF bills of \$10,389.20

was made by Catching and seconded by Moore. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

VII. Combined Motion to approve Social Security and R&B Social Security bills of \$5,622.65

was made by Catching and seconded by Wells. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

VIII. REPORTS

ASSESSORS REPORT:

Please see the attached report submitted by the Assessor's office. In summary, the assessor's office work on reassessing 2013-2014 assessments is 48% complete.

Assessor Offutt stated that he may miss the next few meetings due to required continuing education classes.

Catching commented that he very much appreciated Offutt's cooperation in identifying budget cuts to help with presenting a balanced budget with adequate fund reserves.

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Shoemaker reported that there was a problem with blockage of storm sewers near Phillips Park, which was solved in the short term. He also discussed the positive relationship with Kane County as a financial partner on flood-related projects. He further reported that he had a brief conversation with Governor Pat Quinn about funding for flood-related projects at a recent news conference.

Road re-surfacing has started on Deerpath Road with Pasadena Drive scheduled next.

All 25 MPH speed limit signs are now in place.

Trustee Wells asked about conditions at Liberty and Church. Shoemaker replied that that intersection is controlled by the City of Aurora.

Trustee Moore commented that the Township should plan better use of emergency assistance - no matter the type of emergency, i.e. floods, fires, etc. Furthermore, he asked that The Township should look for a better emergency plan in the future. Supervisor Catching said he would work with staff and the board to do so.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Supervisor Catching spoke about the cooperation he had from former Supervisor Campos, who was helpful with the transition.

He, along with a committee of trustees and volunteers, have been reviewing resumes and have just concluded interviewing finalists for the open position of Director of Youth Services.

Catching further stated that he was grateful to all department heads and staff for their work and cooperation in presenting a balanced budget. As a result of an effort by the previous boards for quite some time to keep property taxes low and obligations to the Ride in Kane program, the proposed ending fund balances in the Town Fund and General Assistance Fund are extremely low. As presented, the ending fund balances do not meet the board's stated policy of having three to four months of cash reserves. Catching stated he looked forward to working with the board and the staff to build up those reserves to an acceptable level in the next four years.

He further stated that he was looking forward to a very positive relationship with the Board and has established an open-door policy for all board members and staff.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT:

Report by Jeff Schoberlein is attached. Our lawn mowing service is behind schedule because of the recent storms but should be caught up soon. One mower is down for repair but will be back in service very soon. An additional hire for the lawn crew is in the works.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT REVIEW:

Supervisor Catching thanked Patty Richardson for her assistance and in preparing and presenting a financial statement to the board. Catching said he would be pleased to work with the board on what they would like to see in future reports. He stated that he was committed to financial transparency with the board and the public. Trustee Reyna asked about line items classified as miscellaneous. Catching said he would break those down further and consider deleting them.

Commissioner Shoemaker noted that the budget is currently passed after the start of the fiscal year, which is problematic. Catching stated that, in future years, he will have a budget prepared prior to the fiscal year.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NONE

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion on Recent Flooding in Township

Karen Olsen, resident, talked about her extreme displeasure with the Township and Road District's handling of recent flooding in the area. She resides in an area that flooded severely. Although they live in the unincorporated area of the township, residents in her neighborhood were under the impression that the City would pick up debris placed by the curb. Ms. Olsen talked about the hardship that the lack of a special storm-related junk and trash pickup had on her neighbors.

Commissioner Shoemaker explained that the Road District is unable to pick up such debris because voters defeated a referendum that would have allowed the Township to residents in

the unincorporated areas. He further stated that he would try to seek a solution if possible in the future, but the law for now prohibits this action. Shoemaker suggested that the Township – not the Road District – could provide funds as an emergency service but that no such plan or service is in place.

Trustee Moore commented that the Township should plan better use of emergency assistance - no matter the type of emergency, i.e. floods, fires, etc. He suggested that we work with other agencies, such as the United Way or the Red Cross, for example. Trustee Wells also commented to the need to address this problem in the future. Supervisor Catching said he would work with staff and the board to do so.

B. Tentative Approval of 2013 – 2014 Town Budget

Motion by Catching and seconded by Hicks. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

C. Tentative approval of 2013 -2014 Road and Bridge Budget –

Motion by Catching and seconded by Hicks. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

D. Tentative Approval of Ride to Kane New Freedom/JARC Service Agreement –

Motion by Moore and seconded by Wells. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

E. Tentative Approval of Wiesbrook Sheet Metal Inc. Change Order Proposal –

Motion by Catching and seconded by Wells. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

F. Review of Resolution 2011-14 Regarding Hiring and Training and Terminating Employees- Motion to table by Catching, seconded by Wells. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote after a brief discussion.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Peggy Hicks, resident, brought up to the Board her concerns on how the soccer program is handled - especially in the handling of monies.

Vicki Marques, Interim Youth Director, explained how the registration monies were handled. She also commented that a couple coaches were found to have charged their players additional fees that the township did not charge. Those coaches were terminated upon discovery of the extra fees. Trustee Moore asked about the cost of program. Marques said participants are charged \$35 for indoor soccer and \$60 for the outdoor program.

Frank Navarro, resident, and Javier Rabadan, resident, made comments as to the high cost of the Township Soccer program for players. They also stated that the program literature is not bi-lingual and should be. Marques responded that the Township does not have a person who could write soccer regulations and rules in Spanish, but information on some handouts was in both languages.

John Biris, resident, asked about potential liabilities in relationship to the program. Marques responded that all participants signed waivers of liability.

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Public hearings on the Town and Road District Budgets will begin at 3:30 p.m. on June 27, 2013, in the Aurora Township main office, 80 N. Broadway, Aurora, Illinois.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Catching and seconded by Moore, the board went into executive session to discuss personnel issues. Roll call vote passed unanimously at approximately 5:45 p.m.

The executive session was recorded pursuant to the requirements of state law.

Catching reconvened the regular meeting of the Aurora Township Board at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was re-opened on a motion made by Supervisor Catching, seconded by Moore.

Catching made a motion, seconded by Reyna, to hold a special meeting at 10:30 a.m. May 28 at the Aurora Township main office, 80 N. Broadway, Aurora, IL, to vote on the hiring of a Director of Youth Services and a Chief of Staff. Motion carried by voice vote.

Catching made the motion, seconded by Moore, to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

KEN CHRISTY
AURORA TOWNSHIP CLERK

The next regular meeting of the Aurora Township Board of Trustees will be held at 4 p.m. Thursday, June 13, 2013, at the Aurora Township Offices, 80 N. Broadway, Aurora, Illinois.