

Aurora Township

Board of Trustees Meeting

Main Offices, 80 North Broadway

Aurora, IL.

Date: Thursday, December 8, 2016

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, December 8, 2016. 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 – Excused Absence.

Highway Commissioner John Shoemaker – Present.

Staff and Public present – see attached.

- II. Motion to approve the amended minutes of the regular Board meeting held on November 22, 2016 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 **\$30,364.77**. 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 **\$56,891.18**. 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 **\$2,449.29**. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- d. Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Reyna to approve the Mental Health Fund bills in the amount of **\$17,466.45**. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- e. Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Hicks to approve the Joint Bridge Fund bills in the amount of **\$15,934.90**. 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 **\$11,712.94**. 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 **\$7,626.09**. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

IV. Reports

- a. **Assessor's Report** – Written Report. Summary: The preparation for the Board of Review cases is complete. except for the twelve cases he is preparing, which tend to be more difficult to handle. First date for the hearings is December 13, 2016 and will run through January 11, 2017.
- b. **Highway Commissioner's Report** – John Shoemaker. Summary: Shoemaker reported that some general maintenance became apparent after the first snowfall of the season. He reported that one truck is down for repairs, but replacement equipment is available until it is fixed. One driver is out for jury duty, but should be available for the next snow event on the weekend. Trustee Hicks and Trustee Wells both complimented ATHD on their handling of the snow.
- c. **Supervisor's Report** – Bill Catching. Summary: Supervisor Catching reported that IT work continues at the main office and the two side doors were replaced. Catching also reported that he attended an open house for Habitat for Humanity on Pleasant Place. Supervisor Catching then invited Bette Schoenholtz, Executive Director of Senior Services Associates, to further discuss the "senior tax" referendum. Ms. Schoenholtz reported that Senior Services' funding has decreased to the point where they are no longer able to adequately serve the 4,000 seniors in Aurora. In their last budget, they

were \$200,000 short after reducing programs and staff. Ms. Schoenholtz reported that the governor's proposed changes to the Community Care program (reducing benefits to \$400/mo from \$800/mo and making it a Medicaid only program) would result in serious reductions in the services that allow seniors to stay in their homes. Ms. Schoenholtz said McHenry (61% approval) and Kendall Counties had similar referenda pass and she feels confident this measure will pass in Aurora Township. As an example of the cost to taxpayer, Ms. Schoenholtz said that a \$300,000 house would be taxed at a little less than \$25 per year. Ms. Schoenholtz also said that Senior Services is a central hub for these services across Kane County and therefore they are able to apply administration costs proportionally across the many programs they administer. Ms. Schoenholtz said that Aurora Township would decide how to distribute the funds collected through the referendum and said in other successful referenda, Senior Services received about one third of the funds collected. Catching asked what staffing presence Senior Services has in Aurora Township and what percentage of their funding is spent in Aurora Township versus other communities. Trustee Moore asked what the percentage of Senior Services' budget is allocated to administration expenses. Ms. Schoenholtz said every client is identified by the residence so that funding efforts can be tied directly to the appropriate funding agency. She said she will provide the other information requested at a later date. Ms. Schoenholtz thanked the Board for the time and reminded them that the deadline to file the referendum is January 19, 2017.

- d. **Ride In Kane Manager's Report** –Moved to the next board meeting.
- e. **Youth Services Manager's Report** – Scot Thurman. Summary: Mr. Thurman said everything is pretty much status quo. Mr. Thurman reported that he is looking to subscribe to a grants mailing list in preparation of grant application season. Mr. Thurman also said he has met with Ms. Stone (human resources) to discuss staffing needs and a possible reorganization of the current staff. Mr. Thurman also said he is working on next year's budget.

V. Unfinished Business

- a. **Resolution 2016-29 Intergovernmental Agreement with Aurora Township Road District for 2017 Senior Mowing Services.**

Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Reyna to table Resolution 2016-29.

Discussion: Supervisor Catching advised the Board that he and Commissioner Shoemaker had been unable to meet to discuss the parameters of the IGA prior to the meeting and asked that the consideration of the resolution be tabled until a future meeting.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

b. Ordinance 2016-31 Aurora Township Road District Tax Levy 2016.

Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Hicks to approve Ordinance 2016-31 Aurora Township Road District Tax Levy 2016.

Supervisor Catching reported to the Board that the tax levy was on display for public inspection for the statutorily required 20 days and no objections were made.

Clerk Owens called the roll with the following Board of Trustees members voting "Yes": Supervisor Bill Catching, Trustee Dolores Hicks, Trustee David Moore, Trustee Juan Reyna and Trustee Juanita Wells. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

VI. New Business

a. Resolution 2016-32 Transfer of Appropriation – Road and Bridge Fund.

Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Wells to approve Resolution 2016-32 a transfer of appropriation for Road and Bridge Fund.

Discussion: Supervisor Catching advised the Board that this and the following two resolutions are line-item transfers to cover expenses that weren't forecast when the budget was passed. The transfers must comply with statutes that prohibit moving more than 10% of the total appropriations and all of the resolutions offered today comply. Resolution 2016-32 is required to pay for professional fees associated with the Rural Street bridge reconstruction and the slow reimbursement process through the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

b. Resolution 2016-33 Transfer of Appropriation – Town Fund.

Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Hicks to approve Resolution 2016-33 a transfer of appropriation for Town Fund.

Discussion: Ms. Richardson said Resolution 2016-32 is required to cover increased expenses associated with Ride In Kane, health care premiums and the Township Officials of Illinois (TOI) annual conference in Springfield.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

c. Resolution 2016-34 Transfer of Appropriation – General Assistance Fund.

Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Reyna to approve Resolution 2016-34 a transfer of appropriation for General Assistance Fund.

Discussion: Supervisor Catching advised the Board that Resolution 2016-34 is required to pay for unexpected dental expenses for a General Assistance client who is a military veteran as well as an increase in rental assistance requests.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

VII. Board Member Comments

Trustee Wells said she enjoyed attending the TOI annual conference and learned a lot.

Trustee Moore asked if the Aurora Sundowners Track Club had requested grant funds. Supervisor Catching said he wasn't aware of any requests from them to date.

Trustee Hicks asked that the Township have their flag available for the next TOI annual conference so that we can participate in the opening ceremonies. She said it is important to increase the visibility of the Township's accomplishments in the face of public apathy toward township government in general. Supervisor Catching agreed.

Trustee Moore suggested having a strategy meeting ahead of the next annual conference.

VIII. Public Comments

Bette Schoenholtz - Ms. Schoenholtz said Senior Services used to attend the TOI annual conference and she agreed that the Aurora Township needed to increase their visibility and take credit for their positive deeds.

Peggy Hicks - Ms. Hicks announced the passing of Bishop Phillips, the head of the Fox Valley Christian Ministerial Alliance. She said he was a great man and his leadership will be missed. Ms. Hicks asked the Board to prepare a statement acknowledging his passing to be read at the funeral on Saturday, December 10. Supervisor Catching expressed his sympathy to the Phillips' family and said he would work on a statement for the funeral.

IX. Announcements

Supervisor Catching reminded the Board and staff present that the Township Holiday luncheon would be held at noon on December 9, 2016 in the Township main office.

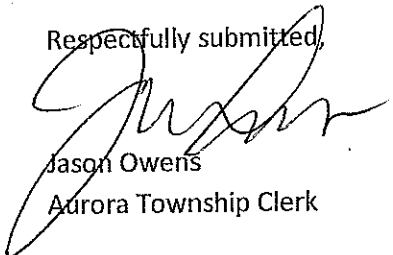
Catching also announced the Senior Holiday Dinner event on Saturday, December 10, at the 3rd Ward Club. Trustee Hicks said she was going to deliver meals to seniors, but she won't be available, but had Clerk Owens lined up to take her place.

Kwanzaa Celebration will be held at the Prisco Community Center on December 26th.

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

Next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 22, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. at Aurora Township Office, 80 N. Broadway, Aurora, IL.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason Owens
Aurora Township Clerk