

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

**Date: Thursday, February 13, 2020
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 13, 2020. 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 January 23, 2020 made by Supervisor Catching, seconded by Trustee Hicks. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**
- III. Motion to amend agenda to allow the Kane County Sheriff’s Department Report to be moved before the Approval and/or Audit of Township and Road District Bills made by Supervisor Catching, seconded by Trustee Wells. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. (See Section V – Reports, subsection F – Kane County Sheriff’s Department Report for details.)**

IV. 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 **\$123,810.35**. 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 **\$18,919.60**. 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 **\$6,701.43**. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- d. Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Moore to approve the Equipment and Building Fund bills in the amount of **\$4,530.62**. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- e. Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Wells to approve the Joint Bridge Fund bills in the amount of **\$34,027.74**. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- f. 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 **\$7,105.18**. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- g. 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 **\$6,084.94**. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

V. Reports

- a. **Assessor's Report** – Davis Offutt. Summary: Written report submitted. Assessor Offutt said the Kane County Board of Review conducting hearings on over 400 parcels. Offutt expects the results to be received by his office soon and then the 2020 valuations will begin.
- b. **Highway Commissioner's Report** – Juan Reyna. Summary: Written Report submitted. Deputy Wallace asked Commissioner Reyna about the accident reporting procedure. Reyna stated that the Sheriff's Department office staff sends the Highway Department relevant accident reports, so no special process is needed for the deputies. Trustee Hicks asked about J.U.L.I.E.s. Reyna explained the J.U.L.I.E. program and the Highway Department's response procedure.
- c. **Supervisor's Report** – Bill Catching. Summary: Supervisor Catching reported that the VNA shuttle service started and he is hoping for an increase in ridership. Catching stated the PACE invoicing is up-to-date, with recent invoices being significantly lower than average (\$7,000 to \$8,000 vs. \$16,000). Catching said these artificially reduced invoices are part of an effort by PACE to help the Township transition to the new monthly service invoices (\$22,000 to \$24,000 range) which will begin arriving soon. Supervisor Catching reported the Paratransit Board passed a \$1.00 per ride fare

increase, which he voted against. Catching stated the last fare increase (also \$1.00 per ride) went into effect approximately six years ago and received a lot of pushback. Finally, Supervisor Catching reported the Township received a substantial FOIA request for 10 years of bank statements, emails regarding technology and the Township Foundation among other things. Catching said over 18 hours of Township staff's time had already been dedicated to this request, which doesn't include his time. Due to the massive amount of paperwork involved and the age of some of the documents, Supervisor Catching said he filed a five day extension to respond.

- d. **Ride-In-Kane Manager's Report** – Melissa Wilmot. Written report submitted. Summary: Ms. Wilmot reported the VNA shuttle service began and interest in the program was piqued when residents see the Township van outside of the VNA facility. Wilmot stated the search for a part-time dispatcher continues and a PACE vehicle inspection is scheduled for next week.
- e. **Youth Services Director's Report** –Written report submitted.
- f. **Kane County Sheriff's Department Report – Report given prior to Approval and/or Audit of Township and Road District Bills.** Deputy Wallace and Deputy Bono reported no pressing issues in the Township. Supervisor Catching thanked the deputies for their attendance at the meeting and their efforts in the field.

VI. Unfinished Business

None.

VII. New Business

- a. **Resolution 2020-03 Transfer of Appropriation – Town Fund.** Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Moore to approve Resolution 2020-03 Transfer of Appropriation – Town Fund.

Discussion: None.

Resolution passed by unanimous voice vote.

- b. **Resolution 2020-04 Transfer of Appropriation – Road Fund.** Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Hicks to approve Resolution 2020-04 Transfer of Appropriation – Road Fund.

Discussion: None.

Resolution passed by unanimous voice vote.

- c. **Resolution 2020-05 Declaration of Surplus Township Vehicle.** Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Wells to approve Resolution 2020-05 Declaration of Surplus Township Vehicle.

Discussion: Supervisor Catching explained the 2004 Ford Ranger was most recently used for the Senior Lawn program and has repairs which far exceed its value. Trustee Hernandez what is done with the truck after it is declared surplus. Supervisor Catching stated it will be listed for sale per guidelines.

Resolution passed by unanimous voice vote.

- d. **Resolution 2020-06 Appointment of Youth Commission Members.** Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Hicks to table Resolution 2020-06 Appointment of Youth Commission Members.

Discussion: None.

Motion to table resolution passed by unanimous voice vote.

- e. **Accepting Resignation of Reginald Campbell, Aurora Township Clerk.** Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Wells to table motion Accepting Resignation of Reginald Campbell, Aurora Township Clerk.

Discussion: Supervisor Catching congratulated Clerk Campbell for his recent appointment as an associate judge, which will require Mr. Campbell's resignation as Aurora Township Clerk. Catching stated that neither he nor Deputy Clerk Owens had received a letter of resignation from Clerk Campbell, so a motion is not available at this time. Catching explained the Board has 60 days from the receipt of Clerk Campbell's resignation to fill the vacancy and suggested the search for a replacement Township Clerk follow the same procedure as the last vacancy – reaching out to potential replacements, soliciting letters of interest and résumés, brief presentations from candidates at a Board meeting and then a vote by the Board of Trustees.

Motion to table passed by unanimous voice vote.

- f. Discussion regarding the African American Heritage Museum. Ricky Rodgers updated his presentation to the Board regarding the proposed African American Heritage Museum. Mr. Rodgers stated the City of Aurora agreed to sell the building at 745 Aurora Ave to the project for \$1.00. Rodgers handed out architectural plans to renovate the facility, which includes the creation of a multi-purpose area and exhibit space. Mr. Rodgers said the museum will have rotating exhibits through a partnership with the DuSable Museum in Chicago. Rodgers stated the total project will cost \$516,000.

Trustee Wells asked how much money is needed to begin the renovations. Rodgers said the museum project needs \$56,000 to begin and asked the Aurora Township for a \$25,000 contribution. Trustee Wells asked if the project has received other donations. Mr. Rodgers stated that they have received \$20,000 from an affiliate of NICOR. Mr. Gaiter stated that several local businesses are donating lumber, drywall and paint to the project to help lower the renovation expenses. Mr. Gaiter also stated that youth volunteers will be used wherever possible to decrease expenses while providing valuable experience. Trustee Hernandez asked how the museum will generate operating funds. Mr. Rodgers said the museum will generate revenue through tickets sales, hosting museum events and fundraisers while also renting the multi-purpose area to local groups. Mr. Gaiter said that the proposed museum would be unique in the area and that interest in African American history is increasing every year. Supervisor Catching commended Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Gaiter on their presentation, but is worried about setting a precedent for funding museums and stated that the \$25,000 funding request would pay for one month of PACE service, which serves 1000 residents. Trustee Moore asked the Board to study the presentation and asked if money is available due to funds already approved and committed to existing capital expense projects. Trustee Hernandez agreed that more research on fund availability is needed.

VIII. Board Member Comments

- a. Trustee Moore stated that he attended the January SSAC meeting at Sunnymere with Supervisor Catching and Deputy Clerk Owens to provide information to the group about what Aurora Township is and what services the Township provides.
- b. Trustee Hicks thanked Supervisor Catching for his presentation at SSAC.

IX. Public Comments

Peggy Hicks – Thanked the Board and the Township for its support of African American History month events over the years.


X. Announcements

- a. Trustee Hicks announced the Annual African American History Month Senior Luncheon would take place at noon on February 28, 2020 at the Senior Center. Chicken will be provided by the Highway Department and performances and activities celebrating African American History Month will take place.
- b. Peggy Hicks announced the 19th Annual Black History Month event at the Prisco Community Center (150 W. Illinois) on Friday, February 14. Ms. Hicks said the event is sold out, but space could be made for members of the Board who wish to attend. Trustee Wells asked if vendors will be at event. Ms. Hicks said that space issues prevented the inclusion of vendors.

- XI. **Adjournment** – Motion for adjournment made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Hicks. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote at 4:55 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 27, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. at Aurora Township Office, 80 N. Broadway, Aurora, IL.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Owens", written over a horizontal line.

Jason Owens

Aurora Township Deputy Clerk