

**Aurora Township  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
Online via Zoom**

**Date: Thursday, May 28, 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 online via the Zoom application at 4 p.m. on Thursday, May 28, 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 Moore gave the invocation.

Aurora Township Deputy Clerk, Jason Owens, called the roll with the following Board of Trustees members logged on and present: Bill Catching – Supervisor; Trustees: Dolores Hicks, David Moore, Juanita Wells and Brenda Hernandez.

Township Clerk – Vacant.

Assessor Davis Offutt – Excused Absent.

Highway Commissioner Juan Reyna – Logged on and present.

Staff and Public present – Due to Governor Pritzker’s stay-at home order and physical distancing requirements, no staff or public were present. Residents and other concerned parties were given the opportunity to participate via Zoom by contacting the main office prior to the meeting to receive log in credentials.

- II. Motion to approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting held on May 14, 2020 made by Supervisor Catching, seconded by Trustee Wells. Roll call vote was conducted by Deputy Clerk Owens. Catching, Hicks, Moore, Wells and Hernandez voted yes. Motion carried.**

### III. Approval and/or Audit of Township and Road District Bills.

- a. Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Moore to approve the combined Township and Road District Bills in the following amounts:
  - i. Town Fund bills in the amount of **\$13,561.28;**
  - ii. Road & Bridge Fund bills in the amount of **\$2,075.16;**
  - iii. General Assistance Fund bills in the amount of **\$853.49;**
  - iv. Mental Health Fund bills in the amount of **\$64,936.69;**
  - v. Equipment and Building Fund bills in the amount of **\$780.40;**
  - vi. Combined IMRF and Road & Bridge IMRF Funds bills in the amount of **\$6,818.87;**
  - vii. Combined Social Security and Road & Bridge Social Security bills in the amount of **\$5,910.61.**

Discussion: Trustee Wells asked why the mowing costs for the Youth Center are so high. Supervisor Catching stated it was due to the soccer field.

Roll call vote was conducted by Deputy Clerk Owens. Catching, Hicks, Moore, Wells and Hernandez voted yes. Motion carried.

### IV. Reports

- a. **Assessor's Report** – Summary: Written report submitted by Assessor Offutt.
- b. **Highway Commissioner's Report** – Juan Reyna. Summary: Commissioner Reyna explained that the brush pick up mailer arrived late to most residents due to delays at the USPS, but there will be five more sessions (one a month through October 2020) this season. Reyna stated that the Senior Lawn Program continued with a few weather delays. Commissioner Reyna reported that the crew completed another round of asphalt patching and equipment maintenance. Finally, Reyna explained that the revised work schedule would end on May 28, 2020 and normal operations, with enhanced safety guidelines, would begin on June 1, 2020.
- c. **Supervisor's Report** – Bill Catching. Summary: Supervisor Catching reported that the main office is preparing to reopen to the public on June 1, 2020. Catching stated the new procedures will include: visitors and staff will have temperatures taken when they arrive to the building; visitors will sign in and agree to contact tracing efforts; employees must wear masks and; visitors and employees will be encouraged to utilize the new hand sanitizer stations throughout the office. Supervisor Catching said he is still not sure about how to safely re-open the Youth Center as it is difficult to enforce social distancing requirements in that setting. Catching stated he will continue to encourage employees to work remotely if possible. Supervisor Catching explained pending legislation regarding annual Town meetings which would set the new date of the meeting as the third Tuesday of the month after the State of IL restrictions are lifted.

Catching said he would like to enact a once-a-month regular meeting schedule, but that issues regarding bill payment need to be worked out first. Supervisor Catching reported that he participated in a Facebook Live meeting with the City of Aurora and other local agencies. Trustee Wells thanked Catching for doing a good job at the meeting. Supervisor Catching reported that no new applications were received for the General Assistance (GA) or Emergency Assistance (EA) programs, but that 13 GA recipients applied for renewal. Catching explained that no new EA applications were processed in April or May and that a mailer was recently sent out to landlords in Aurora Township which explains the Emergency Assistance program. Catching stated that the governor's order banning evictions was in place through the end of May, but isn't certain if the order will be extended into June or beyond. Trustee Hicks asked if it is reasonable to assume landlords will let their tenants know about the Emergency Assistance program. Catching replied that the program is a rental assistance program, so it would be in the landlords' best interests to pass the information on. Trustee Hernandez asked if GA numbers have been impacted by the stimulus payments sent out by the Federal Government. Catching replied that HB 2096 has language which would provide guidance on whether stimulus payments impact GA eligibility. Supervisor Catching reported the Youth Center remained closed for normal operations, but some Youth Center staff continued to hand out meals on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays through the agreement with the Northern Illinois Food Bank. Catching stated with over 1000 breakfasts and 1000 lunches have been handed out so far and that Director of Youth Services Scot Thurman is investigating the possibility of delivering meals. Supervisor Catching reported that Ride-In-Kane (RIK) is operating at full strength again. Catching thanked the efforts of Gloria Yepiz and Melissa Wilmot and stated that the RIK drivers are every bit the heroes as any first responder and thanked them for their continued excellence.

- d. **Presentation of April Financial Statements** – Supervisor Catching asked that any questions be directed to Chief of Staff Richardson.

**V. Unfinished Business**

None.

**VI. New Business**

- a. **Resolution 2020-15 Transfer of Appropriations – Town Fund.** Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Hicks to approve Resolution 2020-15 Transfer of Appropriation – Town Fund.

Discussion: Supervisor Catching explained the transfer was necessary due to the pandemic and the switch to a professional janitorial service from an employee. Catching said the janitorial service is the same group used to clean the RIK buses and

garage. Trustee Hicks asked if the janitorial group will clean the Youth Center and Supervisor Catching said they would.

Roll call vote was conducted by Deputy Clerk Owens. Catching, Hicks, Moore, Wells and Hernandez voted yes. Motion carried.

- b. **Resolution 2020-16 Resolution Setting a Public Hearing for and Authorizing the Township Supervisor to Execute a Grant Agreement for Golfview Park Project.** Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Wells to approve Resolution 2020-16 Resolution Setting a Public Hearing for and Authorizing the Township Supervisor to Execute a Grant Agreement for Golfview Park Project.

Discussion: Supervisor Catching explained that Jodie Wollnik of the Kane County Water Resources Department asked Aurora Township to hold the public hearing the discuss the Golfview Park project since township government is more nimble and accessible to the public. Catching explained that residents from unincorporated areas as well as City of Aurora are severely impacted by flooding on the Fox Valley Park District property behind the subdivision and adjacent to the railroad tracks. Supervisor Catching stated that the proposed project is not a permanent fix, but will help ease the flooding caused by the insufficient drainage under the railroad tracks. Catching stated that Kane County, City of Aurora and the Park District are working together on this smaller project and the longer term fix. Supervisor Catching explained that Kane County is applying for the grant, which is part of the 2020 Rebuild Illinois initiative for “shovel-ready” infrastructure projects, and that \$35,000 in funds previously earmarked from the State of Illinois will also be applied to the project. Catching thanked current State Representative Barbara Hernandez and former State Representative Linda Chapa-LaVilla for their efforts to secure the original \$35,000 dedicated to the project. Catching stated that the project could kick off as early as July 2020 depending on the outcome of the grant process. Trustee Hicks said she is glad all of the local entities are working together to solve the problem. Trustee Hernandez asked if the properties are in a flood zone and Catching explained that the homes are not in a FEMA designated flood zone, but that the flooding has continued to get worse over the last four or five years.

Roll call vote was conducted by Deputy Clerk Owens. Catching, Hicks, Moore, Wells and Hernandez voted yes. Motion carried.

## **VII. Board Member Comments**

- a. Trustee Wells asked Commissioner Reyna about a resident complaint she received regarding flooding at 1760 Richard. Reyna said the flooding was addressed and recommended that any emergency concerns that need to be addressed after-hours or on weekends should be directed to 911, which will then notify the ATHD.

- b. Trustee Hicks thanked everyone for their condolences and wishes.

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

**None.** (No emails requesting that a public comment be entered into the record were received by Deputy Clerk Owens as of 4:45 p.m.)

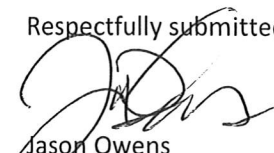
#### **IX. Announcements**

- a. Supervisor Catching reported that the Aurora Public Library Board of Directors had passed a resolution to allow all children in the unincorporated areas of Aurora Township free access to the Aurora Public Library system through the next school year. Catching explained that access for non-Aurora residents is usually \$169 per student and thanked the Aurora Public Library Board for their generosity.
- b. Supervisor Catching stated that future meetings will be in person at the Youth Center as long as the State of Illinois remains on track to achieve Stage 3 of the Governor's guidelines. Trustee Hernandez asked if the air conditioning had been turned on at the Youth Center and Catching said that it had. Catching also said ionizers will be installed on the four HVAC units at the main office and the two HVAC units at the Youth Center at a cost of \$650.00 per ionizer. Catching explained that these units are intended to help clean the air processed by the HVAC system and the funds would be allocated out of the Capital Improvement line item.
- c. Supervisor Catching reported that Age Guide Northeastern Illinois recognized the Aurora Township for its work with senior citizens. Catching also stated that Paul Heinkel from Senior Services will be asking for more another grant to send care packages out to seniors in Aurora Township.

- X. Adjournment** – Motion for adjournment made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Hicks. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote at 4:48 p.m.

**Public Hearing is scheduled for Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. at the Aurora Township Youth and Community Center located at 313 Gale Street, Aurora, IL. The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. at 313 Gale Street, Aurora, IL.**

Respectfully submitted,



Jason Owens

Aurora Township Deputy Clerk