

**Aurora Township
Board of Trustees Meeting
Youth and Community Center, 313 Gale Street
Aurora, IL.**

**Date: Thursday, June 25, 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 Youth and Community Center, 313 Gale Street, Aurora, IL, at 4 p.m. on Thursday, June 11, 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.
Township Clerk – Vacant.
Assessor Davis Offutt – Excused Absent.
Highway Commissioner Juan Reyna – Present.

Staff and Public present – see attached.

- II. Motion to approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting held on May 28, 2020 made by Supervisor Catching, seconded by Trustee Wells. 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 Moore to approve the combined Township and Road District Bills in the following amounts:
 - i. Town Fund bills in the amount of **\$41,207.91**;
 - ii. Road & Bridge Fund bills in the amount of **\$21,950.89**;
 - iii. General Assistance Fund bills in the amount of **\$981.49**;
 - iv. Mental Health Fund bills in the amount of **\$451,446.90**;
 - v. Liability Insurance Fund bills in the amount of **\$20,000.00**;
 - vi. Combined IMRF and Road & Bridge IMRF Funds bills in the amount of **\$6,816.14**;
 - vii. Combined Social Security and Road & Bridge Social Security bills in the amount of **\$5,935.47**.

Discussion: Trustee Wells asked what the Lifelock expense was and who it covered. Supervisor Catching stated Lifelock is an identity theft protection policy provided by the Township to all employees and Board members at no cost. Catching explained the protection was added due to concerns related to FOIA activity and coverage is cheaper (\$5/month per employee vs. \$10/month per employee) if paid by the Township directly.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

IV. **Reports**

- a. **Assessor's Report** – Summary: Written report submitted by Assessor Offutt.
- b. **Highway Commissioner's Report** – Juan Reyna. Summary: Written Report submitted. Commissioner Reyna stated the 2020 resurfacing program (Sheffer, Becker and Bartson) was completed. Trustee Hicks asked if replacement bucket truck was purchased. Commissioner Reyna said it was and it awaits final safety inspection before the crew used it.
- c. **Supervisor's Report** – Bill Catching. Summary: Supervisor Catching reported preparations for Phase 4 are ongoing after Governor Pritzker's announcement. Catching said he is working with Youth Center Director Thurman to determine the best and safest way to continue Youth Center operations.
- d. **Code Enforcement Officer's Report** – Written report submitted.
- e. **General Assistance Manager's Report** – Written report submitted.
- f. **Presentation of May 2020 Financial Statements** – Written report submitted. Supervisor Catching explained the Township remained mainly reliant on property tax revenues for operations, so the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on operations was not likely to be as bad as other local municipalities. Catching explained that by this point in 2019, the Township had received 41% of the projected property tax revenue and, so far in 2020, the Township had received 37% of the projected property tax revenue.

Supervisor Catching said it was likely that most of the 4% decrease could be attributed to the one month, no penalty property tax deadline extension enacted by Kane County. Catching provided estimated decreases relative to the budgeted revenues from investments (-\$15,000), Youth Services (-\$60,000 to -\$70,000) and for the Ride-in-Kane program (-\$120,000 to -\$180,000), but the Township had accumulated significant cash reserves which would help address these revenue shortfalls.

V. Unfinished Business

None.

VI. New Business

- a. **Resolution 2020-18 Personal Property Replacement Tax.** Motion made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Hicks to approve Resolution 2020-18 Personal Property Replacement Tax.

Discussion: Supervisor Catching explained the resolution addressed the distribution of the standard municipal share of the Personal Property Replacement tax collected by the Highway Department in the Road Fund.

Resolution passed by unanimous voice vote.

- b. Presentation on Electrical Aggregation Program by Arnie Schramel of Progressive Business Solutions.

Discussion: Mr. Schramel explained the creation of the electrical aggregation program for the 2200 homes in unincorporated Aurora Township in 2012 in response to a State of Illinois law which allowed for electrical aggregation. Schramel stated the law only allowed for the creation of opt-out programs, so municipalities and townships cannot offer an opt-in program. Mr. Schramel explained the electrical aggregation program was not enacted in two years since 2012 as those were years in which residents would not have saved money via electrical aggregation. Schramel said the current electrical aggregation agreement saved residents approximately \$60 per year over ComEd rates and all Aurora Township electrical aggregation agreements have had price matching language which guaranteed the lowest rate to the residents be it ComEd or the aggregation supplier. Mr. Schramel then explained a new hybrid option for Aurora Township electrical aggregation in 2020. Schramel stated the hybrid model would place half of the unincorporated Aurora Township homes in an electrical aggregation plan while half of the homes remain with standard ComEd tariffed service. Mr. Schramel explained all residents would pay the same rate and those homes in the aggregation plan could opt-out at any time with no penalty. Schramel stated the additional benefits

of the program would be an EPA Green Power Partnership designation for Aurora Township, Renewable Energy Certificates purchased in Aurora Township's name, participation in the Metro Mayors' Greenest Region Compact and an unrestricted civic grant between \$15,000 and \$25,000 per year. Mr. Schramel further explained the hybrid model is new and Aurora Township would be the first township in IL to participate. Schramel stated other local municipalities such as City of Aurora, City of Yorkville, Village of Oswego have signed up for the new hybrid model. Supervisor Catching asked what the paperwork process would look like. Mr. Schramel explained half of the homes in unincorporated Aurora Township would receive a letter stating they would be leaving the electrical aggregation program, while the other half of homes would receive a letter stating they would be enrolled in the new electrical aggregation program. Trustee Hicks asked if the letter explained the cancellation process. Schramel stated the letter is approved by Supervisor Catching and the Board and would explain the opt-out procedure. Trustee Hernandez asked if the letters to residents have Aurora Township's contact information and logo. Mr. Schramel explained the letters would have Aurora Township's information and logo as it is a Township program and an envelope with the Township logo is more likely to be opened. Supervisor Catching asked what the next steps would be. Mr. Schramel explained that the Board would be required to pass an ordinance authorizing the electrical aggregation program for a specific period of time; a competitive bidding process is held to determine the electric supplier; a letter is sent to the residents detailing the program; and, finally, a letter is sent to ComEd informing them of the residents' participation. Schramel suggested a time frame of 18 months for the aggregation agreement made sense as the expiration would line up with the expiration of many of ComEd's current pricing contracts. Trustee Hernandez asked if a decision needed to be made today. Supervisor Catching said no decision is needed today and Mr. Schramel's appearance was to inform the Board ahead of a future decision.

VII. Board Member Comments

- a. Trustee Wells asked if the main office has hand sanitizer stations and temperature checks available. Supervisor Catching said both were available. Director Thurman said the Youth Center also had hand sanitizer stations available.
- b. Supervisor Catching explained that a new COVID-19-related update to the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) was created which, among other things, requires employers to keep providing health care access to employees choosing to stay home during the pandemic.

VIII. Public Comments

None.

IX. Announcements

None.

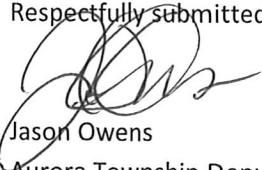
X. Executive Closed Session

Not held.

XI. Adjournment – Motion for adjournment made by Supervisor Catching and seconded by Trustee Hicks. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote at 4:41 p.m.

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 9, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. at 313 Gale Street, Aurora, IL.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Owens', is written over the printed name.

Jason Owens
Aurora Township Deputy Clerk