

Minutes of the Aurora Township Board Meeting
Aurora Township Youth Center
313 Gale St. in Aurora
August 26, 2021, at 4 p.m.

I. **Call to Order**
Pledge of Allegiance
Invocation
Roll Call and Establish Quorum

Supervisor William Catching called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. and led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance. The invocation was given by Trustee Dolores Hicks. Clerk Alexander called the roll and declared a quorum with the following officials present: Supervisor Bill Catching; Trustees Dolores Hicks, David Moore, Sam Nunez, and Juanita Wells; Assessor Davis Offutt; and Highway Commissioner Juan Reyna. Also present were Director of Finance and Administration Patty Richardson, Director of Community Services Ken Maurice, and Brian LeFevre, Partner in Sikich LLP. Public present: see attached sign-in sheet.

II. **Approval of the Amended Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 12, 2021**

Supervisor Catching moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 12, 2021, but with one amendment at the top of p. 3, directly after "*Association for Individual Development*". He asked to remove "...*transports some of their clients nearby and Kane pays for rides in the western part of Aurora.*" and to insert in its place: "...*is a sponsor in the far west area of Kane County and Aurora Township pays for rides for residents within the township.*" The motion was seconded by Trustee Moore. With no further discussion, the motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

III. **Reports**

a. Assessor's Report

Assessor Davis Offutt presented a written report to the board and an abbreviated oral report, stating that all 16 townships had filed, and the assessments were published along with the final date to appeal. He stated that the real estate market has gone up everywhere and reviewed for the board the method for determining tax assessments.

b. Highway Commissioner's Report

Highway Commissioner Juan Reyna presented a written report summarizing the usual tasks of the Highway Department, as well as setting up a tent for Montgomery Fest, completing the first phase of a drainage project on Creek Ave. and attending a Kane County Highway Commissioners meeting.

c. Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Bill Catching presented his oral report, stating that the transition to the new staff went well and that the Township will forgive health insurance costs of approximately \$1,000 each for two former employees who incurred the bills while they were on furlough. He also reported that both VNA Shuttle buses are in the shop for A/C problems, so we are using other vehicles in our fleet.

d. Director of Finance and Administration's Report

Finance and Administration Director Patty Richardson thanked the Board for their vote of confidence in her for her new, expanded position. She presented a written Ride-In-Kane report with more details of the program. She stated the July finances are in good shape and that the July taxes will carry us through to the end of the year. Director Richardson said she is working with the new Director of Community Services to find funding for the new projects at the Youth Center, and she mentioned that one vehicle at the Highway Department was declared as surplus and another needs work.

e. Director of Community Services' Report

Community Services Director, Ken Maurice, thanked the Board for their vote of confidence in him for his new job and said it will be a long haul, as there is much to be done. He said he's meeting with the staff regularly to get their ideas on where we will go. He put forward three areas of concern: the building, the programs, and the equipment and supplies. Director Maurice said that getting the building up to par is the priority. The washrooms need some repairs, which he emphasized is important with Covid still around, and there are problems with the lights, and he is in talks with a subcontractor of ComEd, TCL Company, to get the existing fixtures replaced with energy efficient ones. He stated that they are looking at a grant program through ComEd so that the Township gets the estimate for half the costs, and the grant will pay the other half.

Discussion: Supervisor Catching added that the Township is looking at solar panels for the roof of the Youth Center. Trustee Moore asked about the security cameras at the Youth Center, and there was a general discussion of their importance, and that Director Maurice wants to have a desktop app to be able to access them easily.

IV. Unfinished Business

a. Resolution 2021-19 Public Participation at Board Meetings

Supervisor Catching moved to table Resolution 2021-19 Public Participation at Board Meetings, stating that more time was needed for review. It was seconded by Trustee Moore. There was no discussion and the motion was tabled by unanimous voice vote.

V. New Business

a. Presentation of the Aurora Township Audited Financial Statement for the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 2021, by Brian LeFevre, Partner at Sikich LLP

Brian Lefevre, a partner in Sikich LLP, presented a detailed written report of the Annual Financial Report for Aurora Township, including a written "Auditor's Communication to the Board of Trustees" for further explanation of their process. He stated that they found no issues and had a "clean opinion" of the Township. He further summarized the report by stating that Aurora Township reserves are all positive, the Township's source of income was very reliable, that no transfers were needed, which is very good, and that they found no mistakes, which is very unusual. He said this means that we are getting good information from Ms. Richardson and her staff and complemented them on how easy they were to work with, and how professional they were. He added that the audit found no material weaknesses. There was some discussion of the differences between a forensic audit and an annual audit and some other details of auditing. Trustee Moore thanked Mr. Lefevre for the good job.

VI. Board Member Comments

Trustee Moore suggested we schedule a presentation from the writer of the Township Handbook to the Board, which he said would be a good for the new Board members as well as a good review for the rest of the Board. Supervisor Catching mentioned that the annual meeting of township officials would be in November. Trustee Hicks stated that in-depth training is needed, preferably one-on-one.

There was a general discussion about Ride-In-Kane difficulties.

There was a brief discussion of the idea to record the Board meetings for the public, with no decision made.

VII. Public Comments

George Scowins asked if the financial report would be posted on the website. Both Supervisor Catching and Director of Finance and Administration Richardson answered yes, it would be.

VIII. Announcements

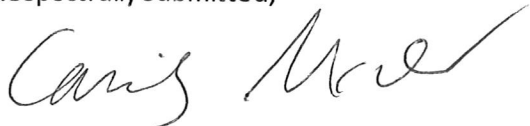
Dr. Peggy Hicks, of Aurora, announced that the Illinois Public Navigation Community Outreach Program will end October 31st and that it gives assistance to people affected by Covid. She said that anyone who has needs due to being sick with Covid can get help.

IX. Adjournment

Supervisor Catching moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Trustee Hicks. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote, and the meeting ended at 5:18 p.m.

The next regular Board meeting will be on September 9, 2021, at the Aurora Township Youth & Community Center, 313 Gale Street, Aurora, Illinois at 4 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cassidy Alexander
Aurora Township Clerk