

**AURORA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**313 Gale Street, Aurora, Illinois**  
**Thursday, July 14, 2022**  
**MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**  
**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**  
**INVOCATION**  
**ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISH QUORUM**

Aurora Township Supervisor Bill Catching called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Trustee Hicks gave the invocation. Clerk Cassidy Alexander called the roll and established a quorum with the following officials and board members present: Supervisor William Catching; Trustees Dolores Hicks, Sam Núñez and Juanita Wells; and Highway Commissioner Jason Owens. Trustee David Moore and Assessor Davis Offutt were both excused absent. Staff present: Director of Community Services Ken Maurice, Director of Finance and Administration Patty Richardson, Renee Williams, and Dan Taylor. Public present: Ricky Rodgers and Tracy Gaiter of AAMU, Dr. Peggy Hicks, D. McDougal, Ed Ryan, George Scowins, R. Paolicchi, and M. Robinson.

II. Supervisor Catching moved to **APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING of June 9, 2022**, which was seconded by Trustee Hicks. After some discussion, the motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

III. Supervisor Catching moved to **APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING of June 23, 2022**, which was seconded by Trustee Wells. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**IV. APPROVAL AND/OR AUDIT OF TOWNSHIP AND ROAD DISTRICT BILLS**

- a. Supervisor Catching moved to approve the combined Town Fund, Road and Bridge Fund, General Assistance Fund, Mental Health Fund, CDAP Fund, Town IMRF Fund, R&B IMRF Fund, Town Social Security Fund and Road & Bridge Social Security Fund bills. It was seconded by Trustee Núñez. The bills are as follows:

Town Fund.....	\$101,216.04
Road & Bridge Fund.....	\$79,137.85
General Assistance Fund.....	\$12,376.56
Mental Health Fund.....	\$21,899.30
CDAP Fund.....	\$797.50
Town IMRF Fund.....	\$5,159.23
R&B IMRF Fund.....	\$1135.61
Town Social Security Fund.....	\$10,849.16
R&B Social Security Fund.....	\$2,976.07

The total for all funds is \$235,547.32. Without discussion, the motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**V. REPORTS**

**a. Assessor's Report**

Assessor Davis Offutt turned in a written report noting that eight townships have had their equalization factors developed.

**b. Highway Commissioner's Report**

Highway Commissioner Jason Owens submitted a written report stating the usual duties of the department.

**a. Supervisor's Report**

- Supervisor Bill Catching said the township has had open enrollment since last week for insurance purposes.
- He said several employees at the Youth Center have caught Covid, so to be able to spread out, we will continue to have board meetings in the gym at the Youth Center for at least two more months.
- Catching will meet with our website designers tomorrow, July 15, and is looking forward to having a new, more secure, website.
- The VNA shuttle bus is up and running again, with our previous driver back.
- Catching said he received a call from a township citizen praising the code enforcement people, Danny Jaquez and Benito Sandoval, for their timely response.
- He also heard from a woman who wanted to show her appreciation for Suely Cabral, our General Assistance Officer, whom she said was very kind and treated her with respect, unlike others elsewhere.

**b. Director of Community Services Report**

Director of Community Services Ken Maurice stated that the Covid cases at the Youth Center referred to by Supervisor Catching were clearly from the 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities. Maurice said the summer camps are going well. He added that the sewage system at the Youth & Community Center backed up recently and this will be addressed as quickly as possible.

**VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. Supervisor Catching moved to Approve an Intergovernmental Agreement Between Aurora Township and Batavia Township to Provide General Assistance Services which was seconded by Trustee Wells.

Catching said this has been on hold while Batavia added some special language. The Batavia Township board passed this agreement July 12. He noted that we have agreements with five smaller townships already. The applications will be handled at \$75 each, with \$50 more for each additional month. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Bill Catching moved to approve Resolution 2022-22 Appointing Members of Aurora Township Community Mental Health 708 Board Members. Motion was seconded by Trustee Hicks.

Catching explained that the 708 Board encompasses six townships and two cities. We are the largest entity, providing about \$1.2 million per year. The Board has one vacancy. This motion appoints Yolanda Dunn to a four-year term. Without discussion, the motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

- b. Supervisor Catching moved to Approve Resolution 2022-23 Authorizing the Highway Commissioner to Execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Montgomery for Blackberry Heights Subdivision Roadway Improvements. The second was Trustee Hicks.

DISCUSSION: Trustee Núñez asked about costs, and Highway Commissioner Owens said the overall cost of the project is \$1.5 million, but our portion is \$657,000. We will pay the Village of Montgomery for doing the work within Aurora Township limits, which not only makes sense given the many split roads between the two entities, but also allows the costs to be spread out over several years. Trustee Wells asked how it affects the budget and Owens said he had some discretionary funds that would cover it over a few years. She also asked if the construction on Farnsworth would affect us, and Owens said no. Without further comment, the motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

- c. Supervisor Catching moved to Authorize the Supervisor to Hire Full Time Candidates for Ride In Kane Drivers. Trustee Wells gave the second.

Catching said he has a good applicant for R-I-K driver, one with a Commercial Driver's License and experience. Wells asked how long it takes to get a CDL and what the cost is and Catching replied it takes about 2 – 3 months, and there

are programs where you can get the training for free. Without further comment, the motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

d. Ricky Rodgers and Tracy Gaiter presented written plans for the Sankofa African Heritage Museum, to be built on the former site of the late artist Dr. Smith's residence at 126 S. Kendall St. in Aurora. They've hired Allen/Pepa Architects and it will be a Green Space, fully landscaped and ADA compliant. Plans include an art gallery, gift shop, classrooms, meeting rooms, and offices in 4,000 sq. ft. plus an outdoor theater, sculpture garden and parking lot. They expect it to cost about \$510,000 but inflation may raise the costs. They have gotten EIDL loans and monetary commitments from several organizations and will continue fundraising. They will be asking for \$10,000 from Aurora Township.

#### **VIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

- Trustee Dolores Hicks announced that the Senior Citizens Service Committee will meet by Zoom on Friday, July 22, at 9 a.m. Their speaker will be from Adult Protection Services. They are hoping to be back to in-person meetings at Sunnymere by October.
- She announced another senior dance will be held Thursday, July 21 at Abbington Banquets in Glen Ellyn and there will be a township bus for transportation.
- August 8 is the Aurora Township's annual Fay's Bar-B-Que Fundraiser for youth scholarships. It will be a drive-thru from 3 to 7 at 313 Gale St. Tickets are \$16 per dinner and all board members have tickets to sell.
- The TRIAD Picnic in the Park will be on August 9 at Phillips Park. Tickets are \$3 at Prisco Center or Senior Services at 2111 Plum St.

#### **IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

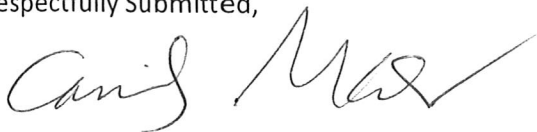
- Marguarita Robinson described an event where she reported a problem to Aurora Township, was told to call the Highway Department, and then spoke with Commissioner Owens, whom she described as very rude. When asked, she did say the problem was fixed.
- Dr. Peggy Hicks announced that her mother, Trustee Dolores Hicks, would be honored in a ceremony on Friday, July 15, at 11 a.m. at N. Park Ave. and Highland, where a street sign will be named after her for her many years of service to the community.
- Ricky Rodgers said again that the Juneteenth celebration was a success, and the AAMU will have a Back to School event on August 19 at Greenfield Park. It will be a drive-through from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

#### **X. ANNOUNCEMENTS** There were no other announcements.

#### **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Bill Catching moved to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Trustee Wells. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cassidy Alexander  
Aurora Township Clerk