

MINUTES of the AURORA TOWNSHIP BOARD of TRUSTEES MEETING
80 N. Broadway, Aurora, Illinois
Thursday, October 26, 2023

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

Supervisor Bill Catching called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and led all in the Pledge of Allegiance. Trustee Dolores Hicks gave the invocation. Clerk Cassidy Alexander called the roll and established a quorum with the following officials and board members present: Supervisor Catching, Trustees Dolores Hicks, David Moore, and Juanita Wells, Assessor Davis Offutt and Highway Commissioner Jason Owens. Sam Núñez was absent. Staff present: Director of Finance and Administration Patty Richardson, Director of Community Services Ken Maurice, and Delia Gomez of the Aurora Township Assessor’s Office. Public present: Marylee Leu, Ray Mendez, Dr. Peggy Hicks, B. Paolicchi, George Scowins, Ricky Rodgers of the AAMOU, Dan Barreiro, Karen Gallegos, David Cannon, and John Laesch, Alderman-At-Large on the Aurora City Council.

II. Supervisor Catching moved for **Approval of the Minutes of The Regular Board Meeting of October 12, 2023**, which was seconded by Trustee Wells. Without discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

III. 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, Equipment & Building Fund, Town IMRF Fund, R&B IMRF Fund, Town Social Security Fund, and Road & Bridge Social Security Fund bills as presented to the board. It was seconded by Trustee Hicks. The bills are as follows:

Town Fund.....	\$58,559.19
Road & Bridge Fund.....	\$3,101.33
General Assistance Fund.....	\$2,073.13
Mental Health Fund.....	\$15,479.34
Equipment & Building Fund.....	\$6,553.00
Town IMRF Fund.....	\$1,117.58
Town Social Security Fund.....	\$4,860.73
R&B Social Security Fund.....	\$1,125.39
R&B IMRF Fund.....	\$266.80

The total for all funds is \$93,136.49. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

IV. REPORTS

a. ASSESSOR’S REPORT

Assessor Davis Offutt turned in a written report with the progress of the usual duties of the department.

b. HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

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

c. SUPERVISOR’S REPORT

- Supervisor Catching said he promoted the Senior Services dinner in a video on the Aurora Township website recently, with a solicitation for seniors to register for the free event.
- He thanked the Roosevelt Aurora Rotary post for their certificate of appreciation to the township for its support.
- Catching said he attended a reception at Fox Metro.

d. DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION'S REPORT

Director of Finance and Administration Patty Richardson provided the board with September's financial statements and said the nearly final tax distribution came in yesterday from the 2022 tax levy. Richardson stated that the budgets from each department are due on Monday and that she will present the new tax levy at the next board meeting in November. She thought we would not be above 5% and said we should be in good shape.

V. NEW BUSINESS – None.

VI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

•Trustee David Moore said he attended the Inc [Mental Health] Board meeting on October 16 and provided the board with a copy of their finance report. He stated the auditing went well. He also conveyed appreciation from the Inc Board Director to Aurora Township for its continued support.

•Trustee Juanita Wells read a prepared statement citing her 18 years of service on the East Aurora School Board and her subsequent 10 years as a trustee of Aurora Township and stated that it is time to retire and she will not be seeking reelection. Supervisor Catching noted that the senior snow removal program was due to Trustee Wells and thanked her. Dan Barreiro commented that when he was on the East Aurora School Board with Wells, she was always informed, prepared, knowledgeable and helpful and said he learned a lot from her and thanked her for that.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

•John Laesch, an Alderman-at-Large on the Aurora City Council, stated that the Joint Review Board (JRB) will have a meeting to vote on the new TIF (Tax Increment Financing) district for the planned new Aurora casino near the Aurora Outlet Mall and urged Supervisor Catching, who is on the JRB, to vote against the TIF. Laesch gave detailed figures in his arguments against the TIF, both oral and written, and said there would be a community TIF talk on November 4 at 10 a.m. at Marywood Community Center. There followed a lengthy discussion, with three others speaking against the TIF for the Aurora Casino: Marylee Leu, Karen Gallegos, and David Cannon. Catching noted that the City of Aurora could ignore the Joint Review Board votes, but he said he would consider their arguments.

•Ricky Rodgers of the African American Men of Unity thanked Aurora Township for their advocacy and support. He stated that the Health Department wants to mitigate the Opioid crisis and can provide Narcan to be available at the Township in two weeks if he gets approval. There followed a discussion of where best to have Narcan available when needed, including Fire Stations, Prisco Center, and the Youth Center. Rodgers said the Narcan program has to be discrete, and David Cannon added that Narcan is so important that it needs to be everywhere, but Aurora Township should be the leader to get this going. On another note, Rodgers said there will be an update on the AAMOU museum at the Thrive Center at 712 S. River St. on November 16 from 6 to 7 p.m.

• Dr. Peggy Hicks stated her concerns that PACE has no bus services in many places and three people in her training program must have transportation provided because of this. She asked Supervisor Catching to look into why some routes were dropped, which he said he would do. There was a short discussion of PACE cutting routes and both Catching and Trustee Wells noted that PACE's OnDemand program is available and should work in this case.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Hicks said the next meeting of the Senior Citizens Service Committee will be held Friday, October 27, at Oak Street Health at 9 a.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Catching moved to adjourn which was seconded by Trustee Hicks. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting ended at 4:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Town Clerk Cassidy Alexander