

**MINUTES of the AURORA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**80 N. Broadway, Aurora, Illinois**  
**Thursday, November 16, 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 present in the pledge of allegiance. Trustee Hicks gave the invocation. Clerk Cassidy Alexander called the roll and declared a quorum with the following officials and board members present: Supervisor Catching; Trustees Dolores Hicks, David Moore, and Sam Núñez, Assessor Davis Offutt and Highway Commissioner Jason Owens. Trustee Juanita Wells was excused absent. Staff present: Director of Community Services Ken Maurice, Director of Finance and Administration Patty Richardson, and Human Resources Director Jennifer Haurykiewicz. Public present: Dr. Peggy Hicks, Ray Mendez.

- II. Supervisor Catching moved to Approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 26, 2023,** which was seconded by Trustee Hicks. 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, 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 Moore. The bills are as follows:

Town Fund.....	\$208,127.94
Road & Bridge Fund.....	\$55,968.52
General Assistance Fund.....	\$7,423.68
Town IMRF Fund.....	\$1,126.76
R&B IMRF Fund.....	\$269.01
Social Security Fund.....	\$9,941.36
R&B Social Security Fund.....	\$2,284.44

The total for all funds is \$285,141.71. The motion carried unanimously.

**IV. REPORTS**

**a. Assessor's Report**

Assessor Davis-Offutt submitted a written report on the progress of the office and emphasized that this is their busiest time of year, as they are responding to each tax assessment complaint. To date, there are 197 of them.

**b. Highway Commissioner's Report**

Highway Commissioner Jason Owens submitted a written report on the usual duties of the office, which he summarized as mainly transitioning to winter operations.

**c. Supervisor's Report**

Supervisor Catching said he attended the Annual Township Officials of Illinois Meeting in Springfield and said it was very worthwhile, especially to confer with officials of other townships. He said he was re-elected to the Township Supervisors of Illinois. Catching also said the Senior Services Advisory Committee has a recommendation for the Senior Services Grant Program and he will present it at the next board meeting.

d. **Director of Community Services Report**

Director of Community Services Ken Maurice submitted a written report on usual activities. He said the Handprint bus is still in the shop, as the problem has not yet been identified. He told the board about the used bus he hopes to buy, with only 17,000 miles on it, which will be voted on later in the meeting. Trustee Núñez asked how many functioning vehicles the Youth Center has, and Maurice replied there are five, including a minivan, a car, a truck, a lift bus and the international bus.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Supervisor Catching moved to approve **Resolution 2023-35 Transfer of Appropriation – Town Fund** which was seconded by Trustee Moore. The motion carried unanimously.
- b. Supervisor Catching moved to approve **Resolution 2023-36 Declaration of Surplus Township Equipment** which was seconded by Trustee Núñez. Catching said the I.T. people said there were twelve laptops and a printer which are past fixing. The motion carried unanimously.
- c. Supervisor Catching moved to approve **Resolution 2023-37 Authorizing Supervisor to Purchase Used Vehicle** which was seconded by Trustee Moore. Trustee Núñez asked if this was a one-time approval and Catching said yes, and it is the used bus previously mentioned. The motion carried unanimously.
- d. Supervisor Catching moved to **Approve Employee Handbook Addendum – Illinois paid Leave for All Workers Act** which was seconded by Trustee Hicks. DISCUSSION: Director of Finance Patty Richardson explained this is the first draft and many questions remain, but it will be worked out in detail among government entities before the April 1, 2024 active date. Highway Commissioner Owens mentioned that his department is bound by a Teamsters contract, so this law will not pertain to the highway department. The motion carried unanimously.
- e. Supervisor Catching moved to **Approve Employee Handbook Addendum – Insubordination** which was seconded by Trustee Hicks. Catching said this was additional language that had never been put into the handbook. The motion carried unanimously.
- f. Supervisor Catching moved to **Approve Employee Handbook Addendum – No Pets Policy** which was seconded by Trustee Núñez. He said this is also language that was not in the handbook. The motion carried unanimously.
- g. Supervisor Catching moved to **Approve Employee Handbook Addendum – Parental Leave Policy (Assessor's Department)** which was seconded by Trustee Hicks. Human Resources Director Jennifer Haurykiewicz said the Assessors Department wanted a slightly different policy. The motion carried unanimously.
- h. Supervisor Catching moved to approve the **Determination of 2023 Aurora Township Tax Levy** which was seconded by Trustee Moore. DISCUSSION: Catching said this is just for posting for twenty days and declaring the Aurora Township rate. Patty Richardson added that General Assistance went down again, other dfunds are the same, except for Senior Services and Mental Health, which

went up by CPI and new construction. There is an overall .49% increase in all funds. The motion carried unanimously.

- i. Supervisor Catching moved to approve the **Determination of 2023 Aurora Township Road District Tax Levy** which was seconded by Trustee Moore. DISCUSSION: Com. Owens said consumables are the greatest part of his budget and they are on the rise. He is asking for the maximum of 5% total for the funds just to keep pace with inflation. He stated the Equipment & Building Fund, especially, will need more money, as there are several bridges needing repairs and this will allow for the responsible setting aside of funds to apply to those projects in the future. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **VI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Highway Commissioner Owens commented that he noticed at the annual Township Officials of Illinois meeting that many townships have an adversarial relationship between working bodies and that we should appreciate how well the officers and employees in this township work together. He added that this is a very big asset.

#### **VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS** none

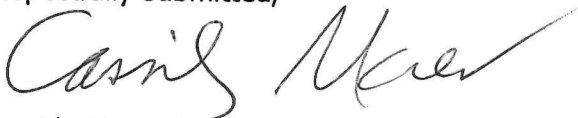
#### **VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Trustee Hicks announced that the Senior Services luncheon will be held Friday, Nov. 17 at Senior Services at about 11 a.m. It will be catered.

#### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Supervisor Catching moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Trustee Hicks. motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cassidy Alexander, Town Clerk