

**MINUTES of the AURORA TOWNSHIP BOARD of TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**80 N. Broadway, Aurora, Illinois**  
**Thursday, March 14, 2024**

**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, Trustee Dolores Hicks, Trustee David Moore, Trustee Sam Núñez, Trustee Juanita Wells, and Highway Commissioner Jason Owens. Assessor Davis Offutt was excused absent. Staff present: Director of Finance and Administration Patty Richardson and Director of Community Services Frank Navarro. Public present: R. Paolucci, George Scowins, Dr. Peggy Hicks, Adam Pauley, and Dep. Santiago Hernandez of the Kane County Sheriff's Department.

Supervisor Catching moved for **Approval of the Minutes of The Regular Board Meeting of February 22, 2024**, which was seconded by Trustee Hicks. DISCUSSION: Trustee Hicks asked if it was appropriate to include an employee's name in the minutes and it was determined that it was fine since it did not involve any private matter. Trustee Wells asked that the Supervisor be specifically named at the start of all bullet points in his report, rather than "he," and Supervisor Catching noted that the proper title of "State Representative" should be inserted before Matt Hanson's name. With those amendments to the minutes, the motion carried unanimously.

**II. 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, 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 Moore. The bills are as follows:

Town Fund.....	\$136,326.12
Road & Bridge Fund.....	\$57,386.09
General Assistance Fund.....	\$8,726.73
Equipment & Building Fund.....	\$651.60
Town IMRF Fund.....	\$496.75
R&B IMRF Fund.....	\$123.80
Social Security Fund.....	\$4,725.40
R&B Social Security Fund.....	\$1,134.49

The total for all funds is \$209,570.98. The Supervisor mentioned that the large expenditure in the town fund was for a new van that was just purchased for a VNA shuttle. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**III. REPORTS**

a. ASSESSOR'S REPORT

Assessor Davis Offutt submitted 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. He thanked Celia Valdez and Patty Richardson for their help with the Road District budget and mentioned that the Habitat 4 Humanity planned development is going forward, even though they do not have authority to connect to Garden or Lindenwood Drive. Owens said the main objections from the Leigh Division residents are the likely increase in traffic and the water main under Lindenwood Drive.

c. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

- Supervisor Catching said he opposed General Assembly Bill HB5440 which would make it very difficult to administer in the General Assistance Fund because of a penalty that would severely curtail any future funding if certain spending minimums were not met. Patty Richardson added that this would hurt budgeting efforts.
- Catching said he chaired the quarterly Ride-In-Kane meeting and opposed the proposed \$1 per fare increase, but said he could agree with an additional fee of \$1 for any trip over 10 miles, instead of the \$2 additional fee that was proposed.
- The Supervisor said he is working with our new Director of Community Services, Frank Navarro, to help him settle into his job at the Youth Center.

d. DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

Director of Community Services Navarro reported that he is preparing to get new programs going, is interviewing to find new staff, training staff, doing outreach to kids for the planned programs, and is preparing for summer camp. Supervisor Catching added that the township is currently down three positions. There was also a discussion of the difficulties of getting qualified drivers for the Youth Center.

e. KANE COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

Dep. Santiago Hernandez gave statistics for traffic stops, et al within the township. He said they have a grant for additional law enforcement officers during weekends and holidays. Dep. Hernandez said the speed trailers are being utilized around the township and he reminded all that compliant sex offenders are listed on their website.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Supervisor Catching moved to approve **Resolution 2024-05 Transfer of Appropriation – Town Fund**. The second was Trustee Hicks. Director of Finance and Administration Richardson said the major transfer was for the assessor's office for updated computers and software. The motion carried unanimously.
- b. Supervisor Catching moved to approve **Resolution 2024-06 Transfer of Appropriation – General Assistance Fund**. The second was Trustee Wells. The motion carried unanimously.
- c. Supervisor Catching moved to **Table Resolution 2024-07 Grant Funding 2023-2024 Fiscal Year** as it wasn't yet ready. The second was Trustee Moore. The motion to table carried unanimously.
- d. Supervisor Catching moved for **Approval of Agenda for Annual Town Meeting, April 9, 2024**. The second was Trustee Wells. The motion carried unanimously.

**e. Presentation of Ordinance 2024-08 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance – Town Fund.**

Discussion: As required, the budget will be put on display for 30 days followed by a Public Hearing on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm. Patty Richardson stated that she expects our health insurance to be higher next year in all departments, the assessor’s office needs website and computer upgrades and the General Assistance Fund levy is down by quite a lot this year.

**a. Presentation of Ordinance 2024-08 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance – Road Fund.**

Discussion: As required, the budget will be put on display for 30 days followed by a Public Hearing on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm.

**VI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

•Trustee Moore commended the Ride-In-Kane staff for their excellent work and outstanding knowledge during the signing up of a WWII veteran. He also thanked all women for their work since it is Women’s History Month.

•Trustee Hicks thanked the township for their support of the luncheon for Black History Month.

•Trustee Wells said she attended a ribbon cutting for Todd School and got a tour of the apartments. She also said that there will be an Active Shooter Class at the VNA on Highland March 22, from 11 to 12:30. Wells also asked if we were still doing handyman work for seniors and the Supervisor said yes, we are, but mainly for emergency situations, such as no heat. Catching said Rebuilding Together Aurora, Senior Services and the Joseph Corporation do handyman services for non-emergency jobs.

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

•Dr. Peggy Hicks agreed with Trustee Moore that the “boss ladies” work hard and are to be commended. She announced that the Fox Valley Christian Ministerial Alliance will have a meeting this Saturday at 9 am by Zoom that will discuss looking for bus drivers.

•Adam Pauley said he went to the latest 708 Board meeting, and they said there is a bill in the Illinois House that will create “Harm Reduction Centers.” He asked again when Narcan might be available at the township and Supervisor Catching said he is working on it.

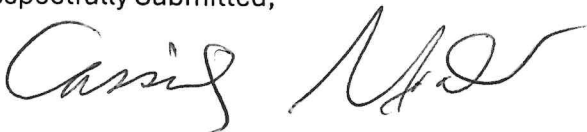
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Trustee Hicks said the first Senior Dance will be next Thursday, March 21, at Abbington Banquets.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Supervisor Catching moved to adjourn which was seconded by Trustee Moore. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting ended at 5:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Town Clerk Cassidy Alexander