

Minutes of Executive Session of the Aurora Township Board
Aurora Township Youth Center
313 Gale St, Aurora, Illinois
August 12, 2021, 4:33 p.m.

REASONS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

PENDING LITIGATION, PERSONNEL – Reorganization of township chart

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 p.m. by Supervisor Bill Catching. Township Clerk Cassidy Alexander called the roll with the following board members present: Trustees Hicks, Moore, Nunez and Wells, and Supervisor Catching.

PENDING LITIGATION: Supervisor Catching informed the board that Aurora Township was served with a lawsuit for an incident on a township bus. He summarized the lawsuit and situation as follows: A passenger is alleging injury due to falling out of a wheelchair on a township bus at a sudden stop. The passenger sued PACE first, which is the primary defendant and is taking the lead, and later added Aurora Township to the case. Aurora Township has insurance through Township Officials of Illinois Risk Management Association (TOIRMA), which will assign a lawyer to defend the township. Our exposure is \$50,000 per claim. Aurora Township contends that the charges are not founded. The bus driver was sent for retraining. The township will let the lawyers handle it. **DISCUSSION:** Trustee Wells said that it should be required that a passenger sign a document to affirm that they were offered a seat belt but declined. There was no further discussion or recommended action. The lawsuit is ongoing.

PERSONNEL: Supervisor Catching proposed a reorganization of the township chart. He summarized as follows:

- a) Ms. Patty Richardson will be made Director of Finance and Administration.

In addition to her regular duties, she will supervise the Staff Accountant, Receptionist, Ride-In-Kane Program Manager, and the Transportation Manager. Catching stated that there have been some issues with personnel, and efficiency could be improved with Ms. Richardson overseeing the above-named employees and programs.

- b) Mr. Ken Maurice will run the Youth Center with a new title of Director of Community Services.

He will supervise the Administrative Assistant, Youth Program Managers, the Youth Services Staff, Youth Services Bus Drivers, and Code Enforcement Officers. Catching stated that Mr. Maurice oversaw the Youth Center before and has a long history of working with youth and seniors. Soccer and basketball can both be active programs here. Catching thinks Mr. Maurice will bring a sense of passion for what can happen at the youth center.

- c) The position of Youth Director will be eliminated, and Scot Thurman dismissed. Catching stated numerous reasons for his decision.

- d) The position of HR Coordinator will be open for hire as a full-time position. Catching stated that they tried before to fill the position as a part-time job but could not find interested parties.

- e) Supervisor Catching will oversee General Assistance, the HR Coordinator, the Director of Community Services and the Director of Finance and Administration.

DISCUSSION: There was a general discussion of how this reorganization would work, and the qualifications of Ms. Richardson and Mr. Maurice. Nunez asked how the salary of the eliminated position of Youth Director would be allocated. Supervisor Catching explained that since both Mr. Maurice and Ms. Richardson would have added responsibilities, they would each have a raise in pay, Ms. Richardson to \$97,572 and Mr. Maurice to \$80,002. Catching said that he is the Vice-Chairman of the Ride-In-Kane Sponsors County-wide, and would like to remain as such, but Ms.

Richardson would come to those meetings as well. Catching noted that it would take a while to fill the HR Coordinator position and the township would save some money in that time, and the health care costs this year were well below normal, all of which will help toward the two salary increases. There was a discussion and general agreement on doing employee evaluations regularly for each employee.

Supervisor Catching moved to go back to open session, which was seconded by Trustee Moore. Roll call vote to reopen the meeting: Catching – Y, Hicks – Y, Nunez – Y, Moore – Y, Wells – Y. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cassidy Alexander
Aurora Township Clerk